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THE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAMME.

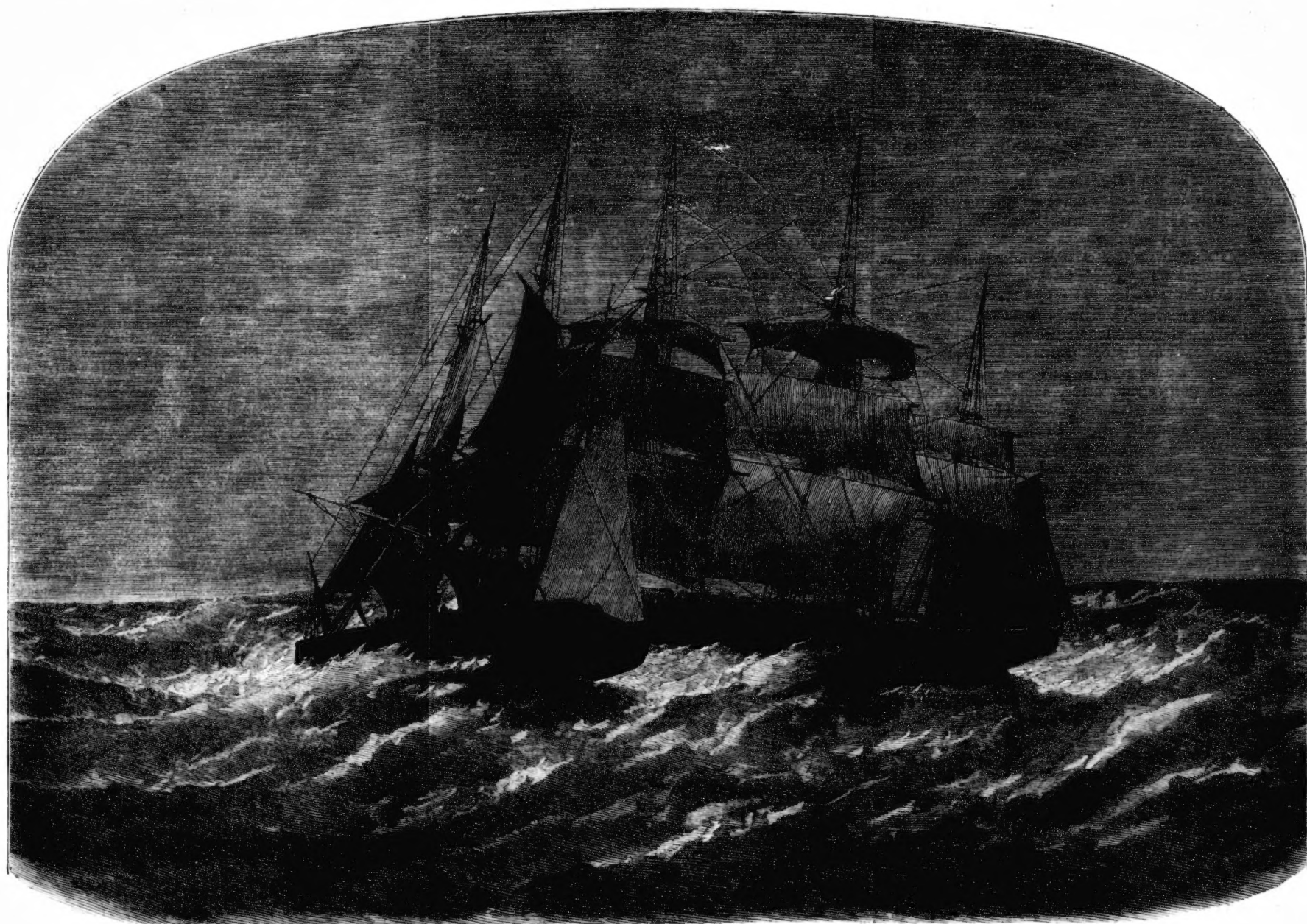
WE naturally this week take the Queen's Speech as the subject of a few remarks; and it is equally natural to observe that a Royal Message on the opening of Parliament, like all other texts, suggests much more than it contains in itself, and that, too, quite as much by what it omits to mention as by what it treats of. The Message delivered in her Majesty's name to Parliament on Tuesday is specially distinguished by these characteristics. It outlines a very large quantity of work of an important and urgent nature, and it suggests by its silence a great deal of other work, also urgent and important, if not quite so much so as that directly indicated. And for both its contents and its omissions there are sufficient reasons. The things placed before Parliament must be done, and are, most of them, ripe for doing; while there are other things that must also be done, but which are not yet quite ripe for action. Hence, we think, Ministers have exercised a wise discretion in making a selection, as well as in including among the questions selected for settlement those they are likely to succeed in settling. It were of little use crowding the notice-paper with projects which, however excellent in themselves, there is no chance of carrying out during the Session.

Several of these omitted topics readily suggest themselves to the mind in glancing over the programme sketched out by Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues; but by far the most important is the great subject of national primary education, to which Mr. Disraeli drew attention on Tuesday evening. We desire to see that question taken up in a comprehensive

manner, and settled, if possible, as ardently as Mr. Disraeli does; we hold few topics more important, or indeed so well worth the careful consideration of Parliament; and we hope to see it taken in hand by Government and dealt with effectively ere long. But we fear the time for that has not yet arrived. Men's minds are still too much divided on certain cardinal points of the subject; party feeling is still too strong; sectarian jealousies are still too rife; and sinister influences are still too potent, for effective action being taken. It must not be forgotten that on the subject of national education we have not merely to deal with details—the very principles on which such a system ought to be based have yet to be settled. It is still undecided whether the instruction imparted in national schools shall be purely secular, or whether it shall include the element of religion; if the latter, men are still at variance as to what particular set of religious dogmas shall be taught, and to whom shall be committed the task of teaching them. All the sects are at war with each other on these points; and till they have learned, which they must ere long do, to subordinate their own particular views and claims to the general good of society, there is little hope of a really efficient and sufficient scheme being agreed to. Then there are the questions as to whether the schools shall be provided and supported from local rates or out of the Imperial exchequer, and whether the attendance shall be compulsory or not. Further discussion may open a way out of these difficulties; but that way is not clear as yet. For our own part, we are clearly of opinion that the instruction officially imparted in the national schools should be secular, and secular only, leaving religious training

to be undertaken by those whose special mission it is to teach religion, every reasonable facility being afforded for the purpose. But we doubt if the public mind generally be sufficiently educated to adopt this plain course, and we know that the clergy, both of the Establishment and of the Roman Catholic Church, are decidedly opposed to it. While, therefore, we would be content to agree to almost any compromise whereby the inestimable blessing of a fair measure of education might be placed within the reach of every child in the realm, we fear that no satisfactory compromise is as yet possible; and we agree with Mr. Gladstone that it is better not to hamper the present Session with proposals which must cause a further infusion of the *odium theologicum* into the debates, seeing that Parliament is likely to be burdened with more than enough of that commodity in connection with the Irish Church question. Better, perhaps, even in so vital a matter as this, to profit by the late Premier's experience rather than his example; better to wait, discuss, and ripen public opinion; better, in short, to bear the ills we have a little longer, than, by hasty and imperfect legislation, to create fresh obstacles, foster new interests, and call into existence evils of which at present we know nothing, great as are the difficulties with which the question is surrounded.

But even on the subject of education the Ministerial programme is not a blank. We are promised a measure for extending, improving, and adapting to existing circumstances the educational machinery of Scotland, where the work to be done is neither so great nor the difficulties in the way so serious as in England. Then the endowed school



COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL BETWEEN THE BRITISH SHIP CALCUTTA AND THE PRUSSIAN BARQUE EMMA.

of the southern division of the kingdom are to be reformed, their curriculum of instruction adjusted to meet the requirements of the times, and their funds made really available for the purposes for which they were intended by the founders. And here, indeed, there is ample scope for improvement. The report of the Royal Commission, presided over by Lord Taunton, has disclosed abuses that demand immediate and thorough reforms, and reforms, too, that can be undertaken without provoking controversy as to first principles or coming into collision with the prejudices or exciting the jealousies of rival sects. At Thame, for instance, which enjoys an endowment of £300 a year, there were two masters and one boy in the school. At Whitgift's Hospital, Croydon, the master stated that no pupils at all had attended the school during the thirty years of his mastership. At Botesdale there were but six pupils, and for forty years the master had sent them to a private school at his own expense, and lived in the school-house without doing any work whatever. At another place the master was chiefly occupied in farming eight acres of the school lands. As a contemporary remarked the other day, it is one of the mysteries of this country how such things can be suffered to exist for a single year. One would have thought that the inhabitants of a village or town would, in their own interest, have bestirred themselves either to make use of an endowment left for their benefit, or to demand that it should be employed for some other public purpose. Sums even of considerable magnitude are thus abused. We read of one school with £1000 a year, and only twenty boys; and another with more than £1000 a year, and only three boys learning grammar. Various causes may be assigned for this failure of endowments to fulfil their original intention. The masters have been carelessly selected from too limited a class, and boys have ceased to frequent the school because a suitable education has been no longer provided for them. Reading Grammar School, for instance, in the days of Valpy was one of the first in the kingdom, and there was nothing to prevent it becoming as successful as Harrow or Rugby; but when the Commissioners reported it had only three scholars. In many cases the tide of modern life has deserted the towns in which such schools were founded. They have become useless where they are, and are grievously needed elsewhere. Out of 532 towns, for instance, 228 have no such schools, and it cannot be doubted that in many of the fortunate 304 the endowment merely supplies a nest for some nominee of the governors. On the whole, this class of schools possesses a revenue of £210,000 a year. Such a sum is far from being adequate to all the needs of middle-class education; but, if judiciously applied, it would furnish a valuable nucleus for future exertions, and ought at least to render any contributions from the State unnecessary.

Other features of the Ministerial programme are equally promising. We are to have a reduction of the national burdens, while the efficiency of the various branches of the public service is to be fully maintained—things which, whatever confirmed red-tapists may say, we believe to be perfectly compatible with each other. Then the injustice inflicted upon the occupiers of small tenements by Mr. Disraeli's rate-paying tests is to be removed, to the manifest advantage and convenience of both ratepayers and rate-collectors. The Habeas Corpus Suspension Act is not to be renewed in Ireland; and the fact that it is possible to govern that part of the kingdom by the ordinary processes of law, speaks volumes for the influence which even the promise of equal legislation has exercised there. When the mere prospect of fair play to all classes has had so salutary an effect, what may we not expect from the realisation of the hopes Mr. Gladstone's proposals have inspired? Again, an inquiry is to be instituted as to the best means of rendering more pure, more peaceful, and more free our system of conducting parliamentary and municipal elections. This proposal, it is generally understood, points to the adoption of the ballot; and, if so, we may be sure that such a step will conduce more to freedom, peace, and purity in elections than all the penal enactments that have been, or ever can be, devised. The inquiry may also show the propriety of adopting other measures, such as a readjustment of electoral areas, the doing away with—or at least the definition—of agency, the abolition of nomination days, and other reforms which will help to denude elections of the scandals that now disgrace them, which not even last Session's legislation has sufficed to check, as is proved by the number of petitions arising out of the late election and by the disclosures of gross malpractices made before the Judges. The only effectual way of securing peaceful, pure, and free elections is to render corruption, intimidation, and turbulence unprofitable, because ineffective; and, as we believe the adoption of secret voting and the other cognate measures indicated above will at least tend in this direction, we think they merit the cordial support of the country. Then we are promised a reform of the bankruptcy laws, a thing often attempted and much needed; and the institution of county financial boards, which both justice and rural public opinion unite in demanding. Finally, there is the great business of readjusting "the ecclesiastical arrangements of Ireland," as the Royal Message somewhat euphemistically designates the Irish Church, the Maynooth grant, and the Regium Donum. This, in itself, will be an onerous piece of work; and to be satisfactory must, as we said on a late occasion, be done thoroughly. When all religionists in Ireland are placed on a footing of real equality, and all religions free, we may hope for the advent of a new era of peace, fraternity, and prosperity for that unhappy land; without

such equality and freedom, it is vain to expect that true religion, brotherly kindness, or prosperity will ever flourish there.

These are the leading points laid down in the official programme for the Session, but that is not all the work Parliament has cut out for it; for private members, in the list of notices of motion already published, have indicated their determination to take a full share of legislative labour. So, altogether, the Parliamentary programme for 1869 is full of promise of useful work, and likely to be productive of beneficial results, notwithstanding that some important reforms are postponed which it is desirable to see effected.

THE LATE COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL.

As already reported, the Prussian barque Emma, from Cardiff to Barcelona, came into collision, on Saturday night, Feb. 6, with the ship Calcutta, Captain Owen, laden with telegraph cable, from London to the Persian Gulf. The Emma foundered immediately, carrying down seven of her crew, four getting on board the Calcutta. It appears that the Calcutta struck the Emma between midships, which cut her in two, the consequence being that she went down immediately, bows foremost. Those who perished in her were the captain and six of the crew. Although a large hole was knocked in the bow of the Calcutta it was at first believed that she would get to land easily, being built in three compartments; but the pumps, unfortunately, became choked, and the ill-fated steamer gradually settled down in the water. On Monday afternoon, Feb. 8, Captain Owen determined to abandon her, and orders were immediately given to get out the boats. Four of the ship's boats got off safe, but the fifth (the captain's gig) was swamped in launching, and ten of the thirteen who had taken refuge in her were drowned, including the captain, the mate, a midshipman, the cook, and the steward. Those who left the Calcutta in three boats are known to be saved; but a life-boat, which left the wreck with seventeen persons on board, has since been picked up empty, at Mullion, near the Lizard. Whether the crew has been saved by some passing vessel or drowned is uncertain.

The Calcutta, which was taken into Plymouth a few days since, after having been abandoned, now lies in the basin at Keyham, her broken masts and the tattered fragments of her sails still clinging to the yards indicating the rude buffeting she sustained from wind and wave. Her bowsprit is broken clean off, her foremast shattered beyond repair, and her main and mizen masts alone remain of any service, all the topmasts being gone. When she was brought into the basin she had plenty of water in her fore and midship compartments, but her after compartment was free. The Government divers, on going down, found that the chief leak was on the starboard bow, about 3 ft. from her cutwater, and about 15 in. long by 7 in. broad. There was another small leak close by, more, however, like a crack than anything else. The divers plugged the holes, and all the ship's pumps being put in requisition, with the aid of apparatus belonging to the yard, the water was, on Tuesday, fast being got out. The Calcutta is now in charge of the new captain appointed by the owners, and of the second mate, Mr. Rawlins, the senior officer saved from the wreck. Nothing has yet been done towards discharging the cable in the main and after tanks. That stowed forward, it will be recollected, was thrown overboard to lighten the ship, but it is expected it will be recovered. Altogether there were 275 miles of cable on board when the Calcutta sailed, and the fore tank contained between seventy and eighty. It is believed the repairs will occupy about a month.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The Liberals have lost no time in settling the party candidature for Bradford and for the City. At three late meetings, held simultaneously in Bradford on Monday night, it was resolved to accept the challenge which Mr. Thompson's candidature is considered to involve, by inviting Mr. Miall to come forward. The circumstances under which this invitation is to be issued sufficiently show the cordiality of the relations that subsist between Mr. Miall and the Liberal electors of Bradford. Mr. Miall is to be relieved from any personal effort in the election in consideration of the personal sacrifices he has already made. Comment on the delicacy and good feeling shown in this resolution would be superfluous. In the City, where Baron Rothschild has been chosen as the Liberal candidate, it is generally understood that the Conservatives will not court defeat by contesting the election.

THE EXPLORATIONS AT JERUSALEM.—Lieutenant Warren's last letters from Jerusalem to the secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund give an account of the results of excavations made at the foundations of the eastern wall of the Temple area. The rock at this point is about 70 ft. below the present surface of the ground. A shaft was sunk for 53 ft. through a quantity of debris, and a gallery was then driven to the Haram wall, which it reached about 6 ft. to the north of the south-east angle. Here several dressed stones were discovered, in excellent preservation, with letters in red paint and other marks upon them. All these characters and letters have been sketched and sent to the British Museum for examination. It is hoped that many more may be found, as any inscription, even of a few words, at this depth might be of great value. Lieutenant Warren conjectures they may be only mason's marks.

SUPPRESSION OF BEERHOUSES.—A large meeting was held on Wednesday night, in St. James's Hall, in promotion of the objects of the National Association for Procuring an Amendment in the Laws Relating to the Liquor Traffic. The Archbishop of York presided, and, in the course of a long address, said that the revenue of the country was recruited to the extent of twenty-four millions out of what people drank. His Grace also adduced some other valuable statistical facts in connection with the question, and enlarged upon the crime and misery caused by the consumption of strong drink. The great obstacle to contend against in legislating on this subject was the very natural jealousy on the part of the public of any interference with the liberty of the subject; but when great harm resulted to the drunkard himself, and to the whole community through his conduct, his Grace thought his liberty might fairly be abridged. The association proposed that beerhouse licenses should gradually drop out, and that the present number should not be supplemented. The Rev. H. J. Ellison moved a resolution to the effect that a large proportion of crime in this country is traceable to the facilities for intemperance, Lord Denman seconded the resolution, which was carried. Other resolutions authorising immediate action on the subject by petitioning Parliament, &c., were also unanimously agreed to.

IMPROVED INDUSTRIAL DWELLINGS COMPANY (LIMITED).—The eleventh general meeting was held on Monday, at the Mansion House, under the chairmanship of Alderman Sir S. Waterlow, M.P. The directors' report was submitted and adopted. In moving the confirmatory resolutions the chairman, in alluding to the very large proportion which the loan capital bore to the subscribed capital, explained that he regarded their loan capital as a ground of safety rather than danger. The loans were all from Government, for a period of forty years, a portion of the capital being repayable every year, together with the interest, so that year by year the liability was diminishing, while they were secure against any sudden demand for repayment. Concerning a charge which had been made that the company were anxious only to obtain high rents and pay good dividends without regard to what the tenants could afford to pay, he said that the scale of rents fixed was in all cases below that charged generally in the neighbourhood for equal accommodation, and that the rents of the other tenements were not considered too high by the tenants was evident by the number of applicants. The buildings in progress were fast approaching completion, and as they were let as fast as completed, he believed that by Lady Day no portion of their capital would stand unproductive. Their object was to provide healthy dwellings for the working classes in a way that would not interfere with their independence and self-reliance, or allow them to suppose that they were receiving anything like charity. He next adverted to the effect of the clause in the Reform Bill abolishing the compound system of ratepaying, the effect of which had been to increase the rates charged upon the company's tenements on the average by 37½ per cent, and must, unless some change in the law were made, materially interfere with their usefulness. He expressed regret at the retirement from the board, owing to his official duties in connection with the Government, of Mr. Goehen, who would, however, be enabled to further the object in his new position. A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, free of income tax, was declared. The directors retiring by rotation were re-elected, and Mr. W. Morrison was appointed in Mr. Goehen's place. The auditor was reappointed, and £20 allowed to him for his services, and votes of thanks to the chairman, directors, and officers for their services, and to the Lord Mayor for the use of the room in the Mansion House for holding the meeting, concluded the proceedings.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The French semi-official and subsidised papers have picked a quarrel with Belgium in reference to a bill recently carried in the Parliament at Brussels, by which railway companies are forbidden to cede their concessions. The object of this measure is, of course, to prevent Belgian lines generally from falling under the control of foreigners, and notably to keep the important strategic route of the Great Luxembourg Railway out of the hands of the Eastern Company of France. It ought not to be very difficult to see in this act of the Belgian Parliament nothing more than a measure of self-preservation; but the papers in the pay of the Tuilleries, or inspired by the Ministers, have chosen to regard it as an insult, if not a menace, to France. For some days past the Belgian people have been assailed with much hot argument, and with more abuse. Belgium, it is declared, has chosen by this act to make herself the mere advance-guard of Prussia in its aggressive designs upon France. M. de Girardin, therefore, calls out for the Rhine frontier, and, if M. de Cassagnac had his will, he would march on Brussels direct. This latter writer is indeed unintentionally amusing in his enumeration of the instances of Belgian turpitude. Not only does he threaten the little State for making itself the accomplice of Prussia, but he actually mentions to its disparagement that it has chosen the Prussian artillery for the model of its own. The journals conspicuous in this offensive attack are the *Peuple*, the so-called Democratic organ, which is kept up at great cost by the Government in order to counteract the influence of the Liberal party with the masses; the *Public*, M. Rouher's journal, which hopes that King Leopold and his Government will see the error they have committed, and the *France*. It is conjectured that the new grievance has been vamped up by order, expressly with a view of further diverting the attention of the people from home to foreign matters during the coming general election.

Count Charles Walewski, the bearer of the reply of Greece to the declaration, arrived in Paris on Tuesday, and the Conference was to meet on Thursday.

ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies reassembled on Tuesday, and resolved to devote three days weekly to the discussion of the Budget, two days to the discussion of the Provincial Administration and Reorganisation Bill, and one sitting to bills of secondary importance.

The Italian papers state the Carnival at Rome has been a complete failure this year. Many foreigners had arrived to witness it, but after the first day or two they went elsewhere. There was nothing to complain of with regard to the weather; but the Roman people had determined that they would not make merry, and they effectually carried out their resolution.

CHINA.

A collision has occurred near Swatow, between the inhabitants of some villages and the crew of her Majesty's gun-boat Cockchafer, who, under Lieutenant Kerr, were exercising on shore when they were fired upon by the natives. The officers escaped unhurt. A naval force of 400 men was dispatched to the scene of the encounter.

INDIA.

Rain has fallen in the North-West and Central Provinces, and the apprehensions of famine are removed.

Disturbances are reported to have occurred in Oude, caused by the application of the Rent Act. The octroi duties on grain have been suspended in the North-West Provinces and Cashmere. The Kopte tribes continue their depredations on the Cachar frontier.

It is officially confirmed that Azim Khan and Abdool Ruhman have sought refuge in British territory. The Viceroy consented to give them shelter on condition of their abstaining from political intrigues, and of their residing at a distance from the frontier.

It is announced that Lord Napier of Magdala will return to England in April.

Cholera has broken out at Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

SPAIN.

Senor Rivero has been definitively elected President of the Constituent Cortes by 168 against 50 votes given to the Republican candidate, Senor Orense. Senors Vega, Armiño, Martos, Cantero, and Valera have been elected Vice-Presidents. In Wednesday's sitting of the Cortes a stormy debate arose with reference to the verification of the election at Valladolid. Senor Sagasta, Minister of the Interior, stated that the Republicans had exercised undue influence at the elections by promising a redistribution of property and the abolition of taxes.

Six thousand men will shortly leave for Havannah in consequence of General Dulce's demand for reinforcements.

Demonstrations have taken place at Valladolid in favour of the abolition of the military conscription, and at Malaga in favour of liberty of worship and the abolition of capital punishment, the latter principle to be applied to those persons condemned to death for participation in the late assassination at Burgos.

PRUSSIA.

The Upper House of the Prussian Parliament has passed the bills for the confiscation of the private property of the King of Hanover and of the Elector of Hesse by a large majority in the form in which they passed the Lower House. Count Bismarck, in defending the bills, charged both the King of Hanover and the Elector with deception. With regard to the Elector, the Prussian Minister said that Prince was at the bottom of the efforts made by certain journals to bring about war between France and Germany, and the only way to put an end to those efforts, which he characterised as "criminal," was to stop the supplies by which they are subsidised. "Public opinion in France and Germany," Count Bismarck added, "is worked upon as if war were daily imminent between the two countries. It is the interest of both nations that an end should be put as speedily as possible to these lying intrigues by cutting off the means by which they are fostered. The Prussian Government has always actively endeavoured to prevent the circulation of false war rumours. It is fully convinced that all European Governments are animated by peaceful intentions, and it requires that the public both in France and Germany should entertain this belief. Even in the interest of national dignity, it is necessary to stop the sources whence newspapers are subsidised openly to incite a brave and warlike nation like the French to make war upon Germany. I have many times been reproached by the press for not preserving a proper diplomatic calm in the face of such endeavours. Those who can restrain their anger at such baseness have national feelings differently organised to mine."

BELGIUM.

The *Indépendance Belge*, referring to the violent remarks of the semi-official French press upon the Belgian railway question, says that those remarks display so much ignorance of what is taking place in Belgium, that probably even in France they will not obtain much credit. It laughs at the idea that Prussia has had anything to do with the matter, and calls the idea "absurd, ridiculous, and grotesque." At the same time, the *Indépendance Belge* is opposed, on economical grounds, to the measure, the real object of which is, it says, to render all effective competition impossible with the State railway, even should such competition be for the public advantage.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

Ali Pacha has been nominated Minister of Foreign Affairs, in conjunction with the post of Grand Vizier of the Empire. Mohammed Ruschdi Pacha has been appointed chief of the newly-created office for the Interior; and Kiamil Pacha will henceforth be President of the Privy Council of State. Sodig Effendi, now absent on a mission in Paris, has been created Minister of Finance. Midhat Pacha has been appointed Governor of Bagdad, and Omer Fezzi Pacha Governor-General of Crete. The Sultan has ordered a frigate to fetch the body of Fuad Pacha from Nice. It is intended to erect a tomb in memory of the deceased Minister.

The new Greek Government has begun to revoke the military measures of the old one, and the troops are returning from the strategic positions, occupied during the crisis, to their former quarters. The Greek Patriarch has addressed a pastoral counselling peace to the Christians in Crete. Other chiefs of the insurgents have sent in their submission to the Turks, and "perfect tranquillity reigns" on the island. The only jarring note has been found in a proclamation of the Hellenic Government, which is considered by the Turks to contain offensive expressions and to require explanation before official intercourse can be resumed. Even this, however, leaves everybody at Constantinople sanguine of the preservation of peace.

PERSIA.

A report published last week that the Shah was contemplating an invasion of Turkey is contradicted from a Russian source. The contradiction, however, admits that six Turkish battalions and eight guns have been dispatched towards the Persian frontier.

THE UNITED STATES.

The President of the United States has accepted the office of arbitrator between England and Portugal in the African boundary dispute.

General Grant has said a few words in response to the formal notification of his election to the Presidency, promising to call around him men who would earnestly carry out "the principles of economy, retrenchment, and honesty." He has declined to announce the names of the members of his Cabinet until they have been sent in to the Senate.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill repealing all laws authorising the issue of bonds, except for railroad subsidies or for the conversion of coupons into registered bonds. The House has also passed bills prohibiting secret sales of bonds or gold by the Government, and prohibiting the acceptance of national currency by banks, corporations, or persons as collateral security for loans.

PARAGUAY.

The latest advices received at the Brazilian Legation in London announce the conclusion of the Paraguayan war. Asuncion has been occupied by the Brazilian troops, and Lopez had either fled to Bolivia or was in concealment at Corrientes.

HAYTI.

According to advices from Port-au-Prince, on the 25th ult., the President of Hayti was still in the south, and his troops hold Miragoan and are again near Aux Cayes. The French Admiral had refused to recognise the blockade of St. Marie, and ordered the Haytian steamer belonging to Salnave away. Gonaive was hard pressed by the Cacos. Families were leaving for Port-au-Prince. Government had removed the monopoly on coffee. The mail communication by land with Jacmel was stopped. An earthquake occurred at Port-au-Prince on the evening of the 22nd ult., but no damage was done.

SCOUNDRELSHIP ON THE SEA.

PERHAPS no plummet that shall be cast will ever find the bottom of human baseness and wickedness. We have sometimes thought that we had nearly sounded them, as in the case of the first Napoleon, or the last hag sent to penal servitude for stripping children of their clothes. But up crops a new case, which seems to demand a heavier lead and a longer line than do either of the criminals we have mentioned. At first we know not whether to thank Mr. James Greenwood or not for making the revelation, so disgusting is the cold brutality he records; but, on reflection, we thank him for having added another to his good deeds. What think you, brothers and sisters, who lie safely listening to the furious tempests, and who find some comfort, when you are pitying the sailors, in the thought that they are furnished with life-buoys, that may hold them up in the fight with the black waves—what think you, we say, of this?

"Writing to me," says Mr. Greenwood, in a late number of the *Star*, "concerning loss of life at sea, Mr. Dixon, a well-known life-belt and buoy maker of Sunderland, informed me that he had grave suspicions of the quality of the life-buoys manufactured in London, and supplied to the Jew slop-shops. He himself had met with life-buoys composed of the basest materials, and sent me some bits of common rush as a sample of the interior of one he had dissected. He further apprised me of the fact that to such an extent had this fraud been perpetrated that a very large number of seamen would have nothing to do with life-buoys, declaring that they would rather go down and have done with it than hang in the jaws of death for a few hours, with the certainty of drowning after all, becoming more apparent as the treacherous support gradually soddened, and sank under their weight."

There, just read that quietly. It is no case for tall language. The simple words are pretty nearly enough, don't you think? You have taken in the fact. The men struggling in the waters—thinking of firesides and children—and feeling the article from the Jew's slop-shop giving way under their cold hands. Let us go on, then. Mr. Greenwood, naturally, did not care to receive this story without inquiry. He is no gusher, eager to gush before a tale is contradicted. On the contrary, a hard-headed, practical gentleman. He went to Shadwell, and found a belt and buoy maker. The man was frank enough:—

"He informed me that the buoys, which are all stamped 'warranted corkwood,' are nothing of the kind; 'not one in a dozen.' 'You couldn't do it for the money,' said my informant; 'the Jews, such as we work for, won't give more than three-and-six or four shillings each for 'em; and how much cork can you afford to stuff into 'em for that I'd like to know?' . . . He appeared to think that it did not matter what the canvas covers were stuffed with so long as they were well sewn and painted. I further inquired as to where the precious goods of his manufacture might be bought, and he replied, shortly, 'Anywhere.' And it seemed that this was perfectly true."

He told Mr. Greenwood what was put into the article—rushes, shavings. But this will be shown better in Mr. Greenwood's own account:—

The neighbourhoods of Shadwell, Ratcliff, and Poplar were visited, and at each place, at a seaman's slop-shop, a "good life-buoy" was inquired for and bought. One was branded "Warranted corkwood," one "All cork," and the third simply bore the word "Warranted." They ranged in price from six shillings to seven and sixpence. They were all three carried home and dissected, with the following results:—

No. 1 ("Warranted corkwood") when its flimsy yellow skin was slit, was discovered to consist bodily of straw, sparsely covered with cork shavings; for the satisfaction, it is presumed, of any cautious mariner who might feel disposed to risk a little slit in his purchase so as to make sure of its quality before he paid for it.

No. 2 ("Warranted") was stuffed with rushes.

No. 3 ("All cork"), cork chips and rushes; about 20 per cent of the former and 80 of the latter.

To test the buoyant capability of the three detected impostors, they were placed in water, a weight of 10 lb. being attached to each. This was the result:—

"Warranted corkwood" sank in an hour.

"Warranted," stood the test for nearly two hours and then succumbed.

"All cork," floated for four hours and then sank from view.

We really do not see that we can do better than leave the case as thus succinctly stated. We thought that no form of rascality could surprise us much; but this revelation has more nearly produced astonishment than any atrocity of which we have read for years. Yet why be astonished? For "buthiness is buthiness" as the Jew slop-keeper would say; and "business is business," as his Christian rival would remark. But, but—would it not be pleasant to fling a gang of the vendors of these accursed things into the sea off Brighton pier on a blowy day, and pitch them a choice assortment of their own buoys and belts to save them? We doubt whether a purer pleasure could be suggested to us, unless we could hand them out to the unfriendly Maories about dinner time. We may not have either happiness; but we may call upon all our contemptaries to do their best to spread the knowledge that such are among the devilish tricks of trade; and we may among us save a good many poor fellows from the deep. Can't the Sailors' Home, among other channels, send about the facts? And if Jack inquires into the matter, and, breaking open a buoy at a slop-shop, finds straw or shavings, we hope that he will not be so hard as to pull the Jew's nose off—that is, not quite off.—*Punch*.

OPENING OF THE SPANISH CORTES.

The special correspondent of the *Star*, writing from Madrid on the 12th inst., describes the opening of the Cortes on the previous day. He says:—

"Small credit is due to the authorities for their management of this affair. The galleries set apart for the public may contain at most five hundred persons. On the present occasion the experiment was attempted of cramming four times that number into the same space. Some of those who were favoured with a 'tribuna reservada' or 'reserved seat,' being duly warned beforehand, obtained a place by presenting themselves at the door at eleven in the forenoon. By half-past eleven all the seats were occupied save those in the Ambassadors' box. The auditory at this hour consisted of well-dressed persons of both sexes—the ladies, with a perseverance more or less praiseworthy, contriving to edge themselves in when the stouter section of humanity panted, let them pass, and looked on from anywhere. Soon, however, the clamour at the door developed into a perfect uproar of impatience; and, there being neither police nor soldiers, nor even Volunteers of Liberty, to guard the approaches, the crowd overcame the wheezy resistance of the ancient officials to whom the office of doorkeepers was committed, and invaded the galleries *en masse*. One had abundant time and opportunity for the sublimest exercise of the first of virtues and the last of resources. To be charitable to the poor fellows who had been waiting since seven the night before to procure a place, and of whose chances of success we, the privileged ones, had, so to speak, cheated them, was only a duty. To be patient under the afflictions our privilege brought upon us became simply a necessity. The ceremonial in the chamber was announced to begin at two. When it did begin there seemed a chance of its not ending, owing to delays of various kinds which interrupted the regular course of the proceedings. For three hours and a half were we in the privileged seats condemned to the torture 'by pressure,' simply because no means had been adopted to regulate the numbers to be admitted by the number of seats disposable, and to close the door when those seats were occupied. The gentleman in the sandals and ragged cloak to whom I acted the part of Atlas for the space of time mentioned, and who in turn served as the keystone of an arch composed of some half dozen or more of his fellow-citizens, beholding my aqueous sufferings, most pitifully besought me not to attribute my discomfort to him, and to excuse him if, 'under the circumstances,' he inconvenienced me. I must do him the justice to add that, having received absolution from me, he besought it again and again as he edged in upon my territory, until having obtained a 'coign of vantage' from which no effort could dislodge him, he graciously, but with a grand air of triumph, exhorted me to patience and complimented me on my physical strength and powers of endurance. Alas, me! I feel his weight now! The scene below was for a time the counterpart of the one above. With the greatest difficulty were the seats of the deputies preserved from invasion, and this only for a time. Gradually the whole of those forming the outer ring, and many of the others in the inner centre, became filled with ladies, whose ruffled toilets indicated the passage-at-arms it had been their lot to encounter. One matron actually forced her way in, followed by a nurse carrying a sucking baby. This proved too much for the gravity even of a Spaniard in office, and the lady was at last reluctantly induced to consent to a separation from her descendant and its nurse. When the deputies themselves arrived no great number of them could find room, for by this time their friends, unable to procure accommodation elsewhere, unceremoniously appropriated the benches of the national representatives. The majority of the latter were therefore obliged to stand wherever they could find sufficient space, the consequence of which was a blockading of the door by which 'the Government' was to enter, and a packing of bodies in most undignified proximity. The only spot where comfortable sitting appeared to have been assured was in the Ambassadors' box, where the representatives of the foreign Powers, in full ceremonial dress, duly appeared at about a quarter to two, our own representative occupying a foremost position, and looking quite florid and imposing. The American Minister, in plain black, took up unassumingly a place behind the ladies of the Legation, Countesses Prim and Serrano, with others, being accommodated with seats in front. I was informed that nothing had been altered in the general arrangements of the House, except the removal of the Royal arms from the back of the President's chair and from the official insignia. In the front of the table stood a crucifix of ebony and silver, and at each end were silver salvers with glass decanters of water, goblets, and a supply of 'azucarillos.' The House itself is about capacious enough to contain the whole number of members seated. The galleries are above. It is a handsome interior, tastefully ornamented, and has some well-executed frescoes on the walls and the ceiling. It is also well ventilated from above. Amongst the earliest arrivals of deputies were Senors Orense, Castelar, and General Blas Pierrat, who were repeatedly and loudly cheered, and who acknowledged the compliment by bowing. At length there was a move, and four majestic-looking officials habited in a costume hybrid between that of our old beef-eaters and of heralds of a tournament, and carrying maces, made their appearance, followed by the municipal authorities, the provincial deputations, the Dean of the Chamber, and his secretaries. The 'Dean,' as he is called, or senior member—by name Don Francisco Santa Cruz—announced the regulation under which the present Cortes had been assembled as that of 1847, and called out the names of a deputation appointed by lot to go and invite the Government to attend the Cortes. To this list were added the names of Senors Hernandez Vallin, Castelar, and Madrazo. In due course the Ministry arrived, headed by Serrano, Prim, and Topete in their full uniform and wearing the orders they owed to the munificence of their ex-mistress, and were preceded to their seats on the front bench by the ushers of the Chamber. They were received without applause, the contrast between their reception and that of the leaders of the Opposition being all the more striking. The President having rung his bell, Serrano took his place, standing in front of the table, supported on each side by a macebearer, and proceeded to read the Ministerial statement. The full text of the document will probably have been already communicated by telegraph. It is unquestionably able, for it answers its purpose of saying nothing that was not known and of not committing the Government to any future course. The most striking feature in it is its silence on the question of the monarchy. This reticence would seem to imply that the Ministry feared to defend on this solemn occasion the policy it has followed up to the very last moment of promoting a monarchical form of government without reference to the decision or the sentiments of the masses. The omission is important, and is the subject of much interesting comment. The President of the Council read this State paper in the hurried, monotonous tone and manner of a lawyer's clerk running through a deed for corrections. He stumbled in his speech over several passages; was applauded only once, and then slightly, before he came to an end; and resumed his seat amidst the very slenderest of acclamations. The general impression produced, however, was not unfavourable, and when the President, in a loud, grand voice, said, 'In the voice of the nation I declare lawfully opened the Cortes Constituyentes of 1869; Viva la Soberania Nacional!' a unanimous shout, echoing back the last phrase, rang through the House. After this demonstration some members in the body of the Chamber, more zealous than prudent, cried out, 'Viva el Gobierno Provisional!' 'Viva el General Prim!' 'Viva el General Serrano!' No sooner did these words resound than the Deputy for Huesca, Senor D. Eusebio Jimeno, exclaimed, 'Viva la Republica!' One grand shout, re-echoing this sentiment, burst forth as if from the throats of all. Topete turned sharply round. Serrano went white. Prim turned of a ghastly pale green, but sat unmoved, only with glistening eyes. Scarcely had their cry subsided when some other members shouted, 'Viva la Monarquia Democratica!' On this General Blas Pierrat leaped to his feet, and, waving his hand, again cried, out in a stentorian voice, 'Viva la Republica!' Once more did the same shout rever-

berate through the building. Serrano rose quickly. The President rang his bell. All of no use. The shouts were renewed, the occupants of the gallery taking up the cry. Presently, however, silence having been restored, Serrano waved his hand, and, calmly and with great dignity, said, in a loud, firm voice, 'I ask permission to speak, to say that the only proper "Viva!" at this moment ought to be "Viva la Soberania de las Cortes Constituyentes!"' This skilful and timely speech was at once responded to; and with this interesting incident the ceremony closed."

SCENE AT THE CARNIVAL AT VENICE.

WE have long ago learned that a bal masqué is not in accordance with our habits or with what is sometimes called the genius of our nation. Englishmen who are clever enough to play the fool shrink from making a public exhibition of themselves in that capacity. Our personal vanity is always too strong to permit us to sink our individual dignity low enough to make only a component atom in a thoughtless crowd, and we are too self-conscious ever to be truly gay. This may be matter for regret in itself, but at the same time we contrive to exist, and even to enjoy a fair share of amusement without those "humours" which were at one time associated with Ranelagh, and, later still, with Vauxhall. A bal masqué was never indigenous to this country, and it is now a painful anachronism, dreary, coarse, and generally heavily vicious. It is difficult for us to understand, then, that the "Carnival" should maintain its original character even in Venice. To speak truly, it *doesn't*. There, as elsewhere, there are fewer intriguers, fewer people who, being able, are also willing to play a part for the general amusement; and the masked balls, as well as the carnival processions, are more and more falling into the hands of professed drolls, who are either hired for the occasion or find it to their advantage to keep up the ancient custom. In a few years these amusements will revert to their original condition, and the minstrels, jongleurs, and mummers will take professional engagements for a drawing-room or ball-room entertainment as an interlude to the more sober diversions of the company. At present, though there is less *chique* and vivacity on the part of the performers in the carnival festivities, it cannot be denied that modern ingenuity has succeeded in producing some remarkably grotesque costumes: caricatures of the reigning mode, exaggerations of traditional disguises, and burlesque presentations not to be matched anywhere but on the stage. The Venetian character, too, is less changed than that of most other people, and the recurrence of the festival seems to revive that quality in the people which the very atmosphere of a bal masqué was originally calculated to serve—a serious meaning under an apparently thoughtless exterior. The characters in a Venetian bal masqué may be supposed to represent animated charades; and the observer may often, in the combinations and rapid mutual appreciations by the masquers of the meaning of each other's dresses, discover flashes of that ability to organise a subtle demonstration which was always a characteristic of the people of the old Republic. In Venice, if nowhere else, there is still to be seen some of that electric influence which made a bal masqué a delightful occasion for the expression of sentiments not safely to be whispered in ordinary life; but even in a scene like that of the sketch from which our Engraving is taken, where the most attractive and grotesque groups assembled in the ball-room at the Ridotto, the influence of the freer thought and the greater liberty of our time is evidently fatal to what once constituted the greatest charm of the carnival. There is no need now for a brief space of pretended liberty, nor for an occasion when men may hint behind a mask and in riddles what would take their heads to the block if uttered in open day and with unflinching eyes.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.—The Viceroy of Egypt gave the Prince and Princess of Wales a very cordial reception on their arrival at his palace of Kasr-en-Nil, on the evening of the 3rd inst., and himself accompanied them to the palace prepared for them in Ezbekieh. On the 4th inst. their Royal Highnesses went to see the procession of the departure of the Mahdi, or embroidered covering of the K'abeh, and pilgrims for Mecca. They afterwards went incognito to the bazaar. They were to take their departure for the Upper Nile on the 6th in a magnificent suite of boats prepared expressly for them by the Viceroy.

NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND.—At a special general meeting of the members of this institution, held last Saturday, at their offices, 24, Cecil-street, Strand—Lord Houghton, the president, in the chair—the supplementary report and balance-sheet for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1868, showed that the invested capital of the society now stands at the sum of £422 11s. 7d., consisting of £3122 11s. 7d. New Three per Cent, £700 Great Indian Peninsula Railway Debentures, and £600 Eastern Bengal Railway Stock, guaranteed by the Imperial Government. The grants made by way of relief during the past half year amounted to £165; the whole year just elapsed to £305. The amounts so granted ranged from £10 to £50, and the cases relieved were fifteen in number, all of them being of such a character as clearly to indicate the value of the benefits derivable under the fund. The roll-book of the society at the present moment comprises 247 members; of them 170 are resident in London and 77 in the country. The number of life members is 61.

LORD STANLEY AND LORD PALMERSTON.—Certain newspapers have been endeavouring to depreciate the non-intervention policy of Lord Stanley and the retrenchment measures of the present Government. The writers, who are manifestly engaged in the interest of the numerous highly-paid recipients of the public money, adopt the absurd "bouncing" style of rhetoric which has so often provoked the ridicule of the foreign nations intended to be intimidated. A metropolitan contemporary, in an admirable leader, entitled the "Bow Wow, or Grand Policy," thus replies to the articles alluded to:—"We deny altogether that the 'grand' policy' is one that conduces, in the long run, to the dignity and honour, any more than it does to the prosperity, of a country. Lord Palmerston, all through his life, tried to act upon it in a bastard sort of fashion. He was always 'asserting the power of England,' by all sorts of meddling and intrigue. But, so far from upholding the dignity of his country, we believe no Minister ever had so often to eat humble pie as he had. He had to submit to be snubbed by Austria, to be lectured by Russia, to see his ambassadors ignominiously dismissed from Spain and the United States, and all but dismissed from France. In defence of his 'grand' policy, he was driven to place upon the table of the House of Commons forged despatches, or despatches so mutilated as to amount to forgeries, and to have recourse to every kind of equivocation before foreign Governments and before Parliament. He may have succeeded, as his admirers boast, in making England feared by many Courts and countries; but, as Ben Jonson says, 'They many fear who are of many feared.' And, for our part, we prefer that England should be loved, venerated, and trusted, than that she should be feared and hated; for the two things are always linked together. Lord Stanley is entitled to the lasting gratitude of this country for having steadfastly refused to be misled by this so-called 'grand' policy; and we dare to affirm that as the result of the course he has pursued, Great Britain is far more respected and honoured throughout Europe and the world now than she was during or after the administration of Lord Palmerston."

THE TROUBLES OF THE CHURCH.—At a meeting of the clergy of the Archdeaconry of London, held in the hall of St. John College, last Saturday afternoon, for the purpose of presenting an address to Dr. Jackson, the Bishop said that it was at one time the dream of his life that the differences which existed in the Church were rapidly passing away, and that they would live to see the time when all minor differences, at least, would disappear. That dream was now dissipated. They had been told in many quarters, Dr. Jackson added, that if the Church would but speak, all differences would be settled. If the Church were to speak, by the united voice of the Episcopate, aided by learned men in theology and law, or by the voice of Convocation, of one, two, or four provinces, or by diocesan or provincial synods, or by general councils, he (the Bishop) believed that the result would be pretty much the same—namely, that those whose opinions were condemned would contend that the Church had not spoken, or that the Church had made a mistake. There were, however, one or two pressing evils which might, he thought, be cured if the attempt were made in a Christian spirit, and one of these was the tone not of the "religious," but of what was called the Church press. He did not intend to speak of newspapers on one side or the other, but of all; and the evils connected with them were more than small, for there was involved in the question a great breach of Christian charity. It was very well to lay the blame on newspapers; but newspapers were, of course, written to sell. If they were not sold they would not be written, and the inference was that the vast masses of persons who bought them were not displeased with their uncharitable misrepresentations. But the great evil in connection with newspapers was this, that they provided means of scandal for the worldly and unbelieving, who, taking for granted what they read, despised what they called the love and charity of Christians. It could only be in a spirit of the bitterest irony that the sceptic and the unbeliever could point to the Church newspapers of the day, and say, "See how these Christians love one another."

PRINCESS BACIOCCHI.

SOME of our readers will have heard of the death of one of the nearest representatives of the family of the first Napoleon; and, now that so much is said of the Napoleonic dynasty and the Bonapartist policy, it will be interesting to receive a portrait of a woman in whose lineaments the family likeness may be said to have been preserved.

Napoléone Elisa Princess Baciocchi was born June 3, 1806, and was the daughter of Felix Baciocchi, Prince of Lucca, and Princess Elisa Bonaparte, sister of Napoleon I. The young Princess was brought up at the Court of her uncle, and, it is said, evinced a strong partiality for her Imperial cousin, the Duke of Reichstadt, who, it is declared, had decided to elope with her from Schönbrunn, where he who was called King of Rome was detained. It will be remembered that the youth, who is still declared to have been Napoleon II., after the abdication of his father, but who was only partially proclaimed before the attempt was abandoned, fled with his mother to the Court of his grandfather, the Emperor of Austria, who brought him up and gave him the title of Duke of Reichstadt, with the colonelcy of a regiment of cavalry. There were ugly rumours afloat at the time that his grandfather basely encouraged his youthful excesses for the purpose of ruining his health and prospects. The poor youth died of consumption shortly after he had attained his twenty-first year.

It is related that, when the Duke and the Princess, his cousin, were stopped in making their way from the castle, the Princess said to the guards, "Voilà, mon Souverain; je suis sa cousine." Princess Baciocchi has died in her sixty-third year, of some kind of convulsive fit, and has left at the Court a nephew, Count Felix Baciocchi, Lord High Chamberlain and Comptroller of the Imperial Theatres. The death of the Princess was deeply felt throughout Bretagne, not only on account of the great interest she always displayed in agriculture, and especially in the redemption of waste land, but also because of her personal sympathy and kindness. With regard to agriculture, indeed, she seems to have made it a special study, and was a great practical authority on the subject; so that her residence

in the château of Korn-er-Houët was marked with vast progress in the fertility of the surrounding country, where nearly 4000 hectares of land, till that time little cultivated, were added to the province; and the peasantry will not easily forget that remarkable

moment there are no vessels of any account alongside the Tuileries quay, save the one which the Emperor has just visited; and the quantity of goods in the small warehouses is much less than have been seen in former years.



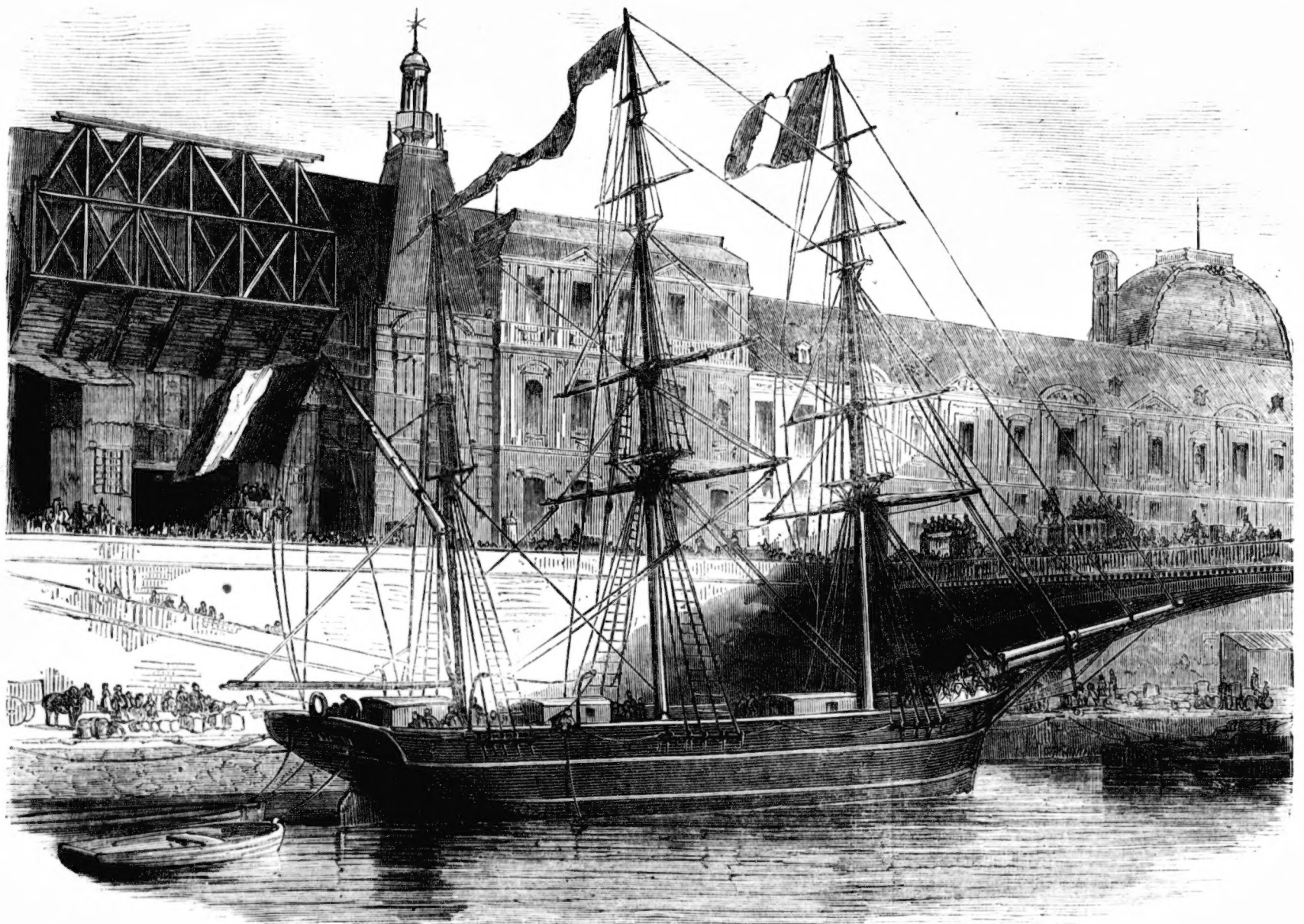
THE LATE PRINCESS BACIOCCHI.

and almost masculine lady (dressed, too, in that style so effectively assumed by Rosa Bonheur), galloping hither and thither, entering the people's houses, and discoursing freely on the various improvements in which she was so greatly interested.

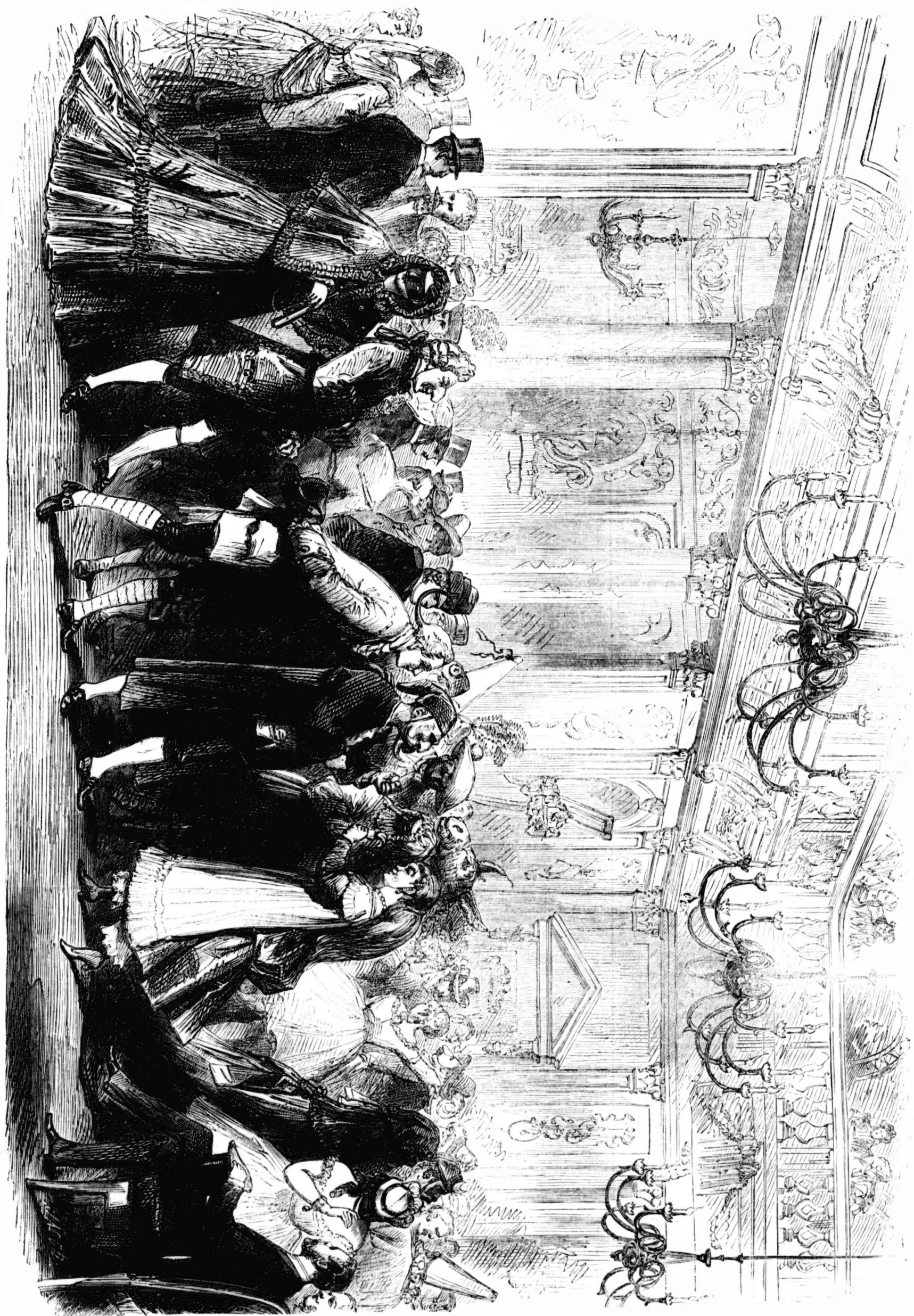
NAVIGATION OF THE SEINE.

THE Emperor and Empress of the French, the other day, went, quite unexpectedly, to pay a visit to the largest seagoing vessel which has ever gone up the Seine to Paris, the Paris-Port-de-Mer of Bordeaux, which was lying off the quay opposite the Tuileries. At three o'clock in the afternoon Baron de Bourgoing, the Emperor's Equerry, ran up the rope ladder to the quarter-deck, and announced that their Majesties were coming immediately. The captain, M. Franck, who was at dinner with his small crew, begged for a little time to change his dress and put his cabin in order; but the Equerry said his Majesty could not be kept waiting, and, moreover, would like to see the ship just as it was. Their Majesties came accordingly, accompanied by M.M. de Bourgoing and Reille, Mesdames de Lourmel and Marnesia, and some other officers and ladies of the household. They spent an hour on board, and talked a great deal with the captain. The Empress, on inspecting his yellow silk cabin, was pleased to tell him that he was lodged like a *petit marquis*. The Emperor listened with interest to Captain Franck when he explained the great advantage of a ship which could bring its cargo direct to Paris, instead of unloading at Havre and paying the railway 38f. a ton, without warehouse room. Their Majesties, on leaving, gave a present of 300f. to the crew.

The advantage is evident, provided it will pay to construct ships capable of facing a heavy sea, and yet drawing little enough water to get up the shallow Seine. But the problem is not solved by the experimental voyage of the Paris-Port-de-Mer, which, moreover, had a very long and perilous trip. It is now many years since the notion of making Paris a "seaport" was caressed; but at this



NAVIGATION OF THE SEINE: THE BARQUE PARIS-PORT-DE-MER ALONGSIDE THE TUILERIES QUAY.



THE CARNIVAL AT VENICE: SCENE IN THE BALL-ROOM AT THE RIDOTTO.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 344.

MORE ROOM WANTED.

TAKING what we may call a bird's-eye view of the House from the Reporters' Gallery, we cannot fail to discern that some not unimportant changes have been made during the recess. Our readers will remember that every now and then for some years past complaints have been made that the House was too small, and that on busy nights many members of the third estate, every man of whom had as much right to a comfortable place as the Prime Minister, or even the august Speaker himself, could find no seats. Last year the complainings became so loud, and even clamorous, that a Select Committee was appointed to consider and report upon this matter. The Committee met many times, and so intent were they to settle the question satisfactorily, that, unless we have been misinformed, they dispatched a Commissioner to go abroad to view, and examine, and make plans of the various Continental senate houses. And in due time the report of the said Committee was presented in shape of a thick bluebook, illustrated by a score or so of lithographed plans—a very elaborate report indeed, and, we may say, very expensive, showing how the House could be enlarged, and also, what was equally valuable, how it could not; and further, if the House should determine to build another house, where and how it could be built, the time that it would take to build, and the presumed cost of the rebuilding. This report was ordered to lie upon the table, to be considered at a more convenient season—the House of Commons proper then being far too busy in reforming, or, we may say reconstructing, itself to think of so secondary a matter as providing a more suitable chamber. Well, in the recess it seems to have occurred to Mr. Speaker that as this question was hung up for a time, and would probably remain hung up for a long time, it might be as well to inquire whether by some rearrangement in the House room could not be made for at least some of the seatless members. The inquiry was made. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Serjeant-at-Arms, and Mr. Barry, the architect, consulted together; and the changes which we see from the Reporters' Gallery, and which we will now shortly describe, are the results of the consultation.

MORE ROOM OBTAINED.

Strangers accustomed to attend the House of Commons will remember that under the front gallery there are on each side of the doorway facing the Speaker three benches; that the front bench was set apart for Peers, and that on the two back benches strangers, supposed to be of the selecter sort, were, by special permission, allowed to sit. To get a seat under the gallery on a busy night was considered a great achievement. Further; here, too, sat the Government "coaches," private secretaries, chief clerks of departments, the Government bill-drawer, &c.—including, in short, everybody whom the Minister of the Crown having business before the House, wished to have at hand. Well, a new regulation as to these benches has been issued by Mr. Speaker. The Peers are banished; the official "coaches" are to sit on the back bench, which is to be kept for them and the clerks of the House, with now and then a few strangers of the selectest sort; and the two other benches have been handed over to the members. By this arrangement the members will gain thirty-six seats. The Peers are to sit up stairs with the Ambassadors, on the front bench, over the clock, and on half a bench immediately behind. There used to be a passage here, but it has been filled up with said bench. Of this their Lordships are to have only half; the other half is reserved for the strangers, of the selecter sort, who used to be admitted under the gallery. Under the Reporters' Gallery, at the back of the Speaker's chair, there is a cross bench on each side of the door. By a change here, which we need not describe, two more seats have been secured, making a total of forty new seats in all. This is not enough—not nearly enough; but it must suffice for a time. There is another change, which may appear to some meaningless; but it has a meaning, as we will show. The backs of the front benches on the floor have been heightened six inches higher than the others, and for this somewhat ludicrous cause: on the back benches members are obliged to sit wellnigh upright, because for want of room they cannot stretch out their legs. But members sitting on the front bench, having nothing to hinder, were accustomed, many of them, to lean their heads upon the edge of the backs of the seat, stretch their legs out as far as they could, and thus, instead of appearing to sit, they seemed to be lying on an inclined plane. It is an ungainly, inelegant attitude; and, to compel the offenders to assume a more decorous and dignified position, Mr. Speaker has ordered the backs of these benches to be raised.

NEW MEMBERSHIP.

The time appointed for the House to meet on Tuesday was a quarter to two. But an hour before this time the members began to assemble, and when the bright newly-gilt bauble, on the shoulder of the Serjeant-at-Arms—that sure sign that Mr. Speaker is approaching—emerged through the doorway, there could not have been less than 250 members present. Most of these were new members. The old members—knowing that nothing would be done at this morning sitting except the routine, formal business of marching to the House of Lords, to hear the Queen's Speech read by the Lord Chancellor, and marching back again—did not come down in great force. But of the 200 new members, we should say at least three fourths were there; nor is this surprising. Their senatorial honours are fire-new from the mint; and it is but natural that they should take every opportunity to air them; just as a schoolboy who has got, for the first time, a watch in his pocket is ever taking it out to look at the time. In a few months, perhaps in a few weeks, their honours will have somewhat palled by use; and, with some of them, the whip will find it as difficult to get them down as it would be now to keep them away. Besides, these gentlemen have much to learn about the House—its ways, customs, &c. For a time most of the new men crowded the floor congratulating and receiving congratulations, or inquiring of their friends or the officers of the House where they ought to sit, what they must do to secure their seats, what business would be done, &c.—learning their lessons, in short, like novices. Gradually, however, they resolved themselves into order; and when the doorkeeper at the bar shouted, "Mr. Speaker!" new membership ranged itself in ranks, and stood up and bowed as its august chief passed to the table, as true to time as if it had been drilled. And when the Chaplain began to read the prayers every man turned round and bowed his head, and suddenly became as solemn and serious, to all appearance, as if he had been at church. It may seem surprising to some of our readers that these new members should so quickly learn; but where is the wonder? "They followed," as the proverb has it, "the bell wether;" or, in plain language, they saw what the old members did, and did likewise.

RADICALISM.

Two facts struck us on surveying the House after prayers. Fact 1. How much stronger new membership is on the right of the Speaker than it is on his left. On the right one half the members present were fresh men, whilst on the left the majority of the faces were old and familiar. Fact 2. The distinction of above and below the gangway is rapidly fading, and will, unless some new phases of party should arise, soon be obliterated. We will not say that all on the right of the Speaker are *professed* Radicals; but this we may say, that the *professed* Radicals are now too numerous to be confined to the space below the gangway. *Professed* Radicalism, like most of our inland rivers, has overflowed all its banks. We remember the time when below the gangway was so spacious for Radicalism. But as in the meteorological, so in the political world, there have been storms of late, and Radicalism has burst its boundaries, and threatens, if the thing be not already done, to spread all over that side of the House. At all events, as a river, when it overflows its banks, penetrates into many watercourses, channels, ditches, &c., so this Radicalism has shown itself in unaccustomed places. It has penetrated the Treasury Bench; and if it is not

dominant, it has certainly tinged the waters there. Whiggery it has almost overwhelmed. This is certain. There may be here and there a few isles—or, rather, islets—of Whiggery left, but they are hardly discernible; and some of those appearances which we take to be islets, when we come to observe them closely, are only appearances, and not realities. Strange change this, since this series of articles began!

THE MOVER OF THE ADDRESS.

For example, the honourable mover of the Address, Mr. Henry Frederick Cowper. Did anybody suspect him of Radicalism? He comes of a high family. He is the son of the sixth Earl Cowper, grandson of Lady Palmerston, brother of the present Earl Cowper. And considering all this, and as he had never declared his sentiments in the House, we naturally thought that he was a Whig—or, at best, "a Whig and something more." But obviously he is a Radical—at all events, he talked Radicalism. But we must say something of this gentleman's maiden speech; for, though the hon. gentleman came into Parliament in 1865, this was his maiden speech. But there is really very little to say. That it was a good speech our readers, most of whom we presume have read it, know as well as we do; and beyond that there is little to be noticed. Mr. Cowper appeared in the well-known scarlet uniform of a Deputy Lieutenant. He is a Captain of the 1st Herts Rifle Volunteers; why, then, did he not appear in his Captain's uniform? We cannot tell. Surely the real military uniform is more honourable than that of the nondescript office of Deputy Lieutenant. We suspect, though, that the volunteer uniform has not yet been sanctioned by those who rule in these matters. The speech, as we have said, was good. It was delivered reasonably well, in clear, audible tones, and without stumbling or hesitation, but without action and with very little emphasis. In short, as an American would say, it was just quietly reeled off; and this is all we need say about it, except to impress upon our readers the noteworthy fact that it was—high born and highly connected though the speaker is—a Radical speech.

THE SECONDER.

Mr. Anthony John Mundella seconded the Address. The name has a foreign hue; and on his father's side he is a foreigner, but on his mother's he is English. In short, he is a hybrid. His father was Mr., or Signor, Antonio Mundella, of "the kingdom of Italy;" his mother, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Allsopp, of Leicester. Mr. Mundella is "an advanced Liberal"—i.e., a Radical; and this fact has its significance. Advanced Radicals used not to be selected to second addresses. But, Radical as he is, he submitted to wear the Court dress. Evidently, though, it did not sit easy upon him. A man, to wear the Court dress with ease and grace, must be to the manner born. However, Mr. Mundella carried it as well as could be expected. Those who had heard of and learned to know Mr. Mundella, when he rose, hoped and feared—hoped that he would deliver a striking speech, feared that it would be too long; but both hopes and fears were disappointed. The speech, though not bad, was certainly not striking; and, happily, it was short. From this speech, and our knowledge of the speaker, we conclude that Mr. Mundella will never be an attractive speaker; but, within the range of his special knowledge, he will probably be a very useful member. But be pleased to note, readers, and bear in mind, that Mr. Mundella is a Radical. By-the-way, he is specially a working man's member.

PREMIER AND EX-PREMIER.

Whilst the mover and the seconder of the Address were speaking the House was generally quiet, and at times, we thought, listless—albeit, every now and then, at rather long intervals though, new membership yelled out a spirit of cheers. But when Mr. Disraeli rose, the new members—many of whom had never heard the great Conservative leader speak—were "all eye, all ear, all expectation;" and it was curious to see how they stretched out their necks and fixed their eyes upon the orator, listening, as the old divines used to say, with an appetite. But if they expected a regular Disraelian speech, sparkling with repartees and sarcasms, and characteristic paradoxes, they were disappointed; for, though the speech was very good, it was, for Disraeli, very tame; nor was it pugnacious at all, but subdued in tone, and rather complimentary. But let new membership wait, and some night, near midnight or after, the Conservative leader will come out in all his force. Mr. Disraeli's speeches before dinner are generally rather tame. When Mr. Disraeli sat down Mr. White rose and blurted out, in his straightforward, independent way, the pertinent question, "Why did you not notice in the Queen's Speech the grand revolution in Spain?" to which the Premier had to reply in specious if not entirely satisfactory terms. "Wait till the work shall be completed, and then you shall see what you shall see," was the Premier's answer in effect. Of course, when the Premier rose the Liberal members, new and old, gave him a hearty cheer, expressing approval of the past and encouragement in the great labour which lies before him. And he needs encouragement. As we looked upon him as he sat upon the Treasury bench, evidently in good health and buoyant spirits, it pained us to think what labour, worrying anxiety, excitement, he will have to undergo before the great work which he has undertaken can be accomplished. May God, as the old Puritans used to say, give him grace and strength! As soon as the Premier sat down, the debate collapsed. Amidst the turbulence of the members rushing away to dinner, chatting as they went, the voices of a succession of speakers—Newdegate, Sir Patrick O'Brien, and others—were heard; but nobody heeded them, and in a few minutes all was over.

Imperial Parliament.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.—THE ROYAL MESSAGE.

Both Houses of Parliament met at two o'clock on Tuesday for the dispatch of business. The opening of the first Session of the present Parliament formally took place, indeed, in December last, but the meeting of Tuesday may be regarded, practically and substantially, as the commencement of the Session. Although it was generally known that the Queen would not come in State, as was once reported, to open the Session by reading the Speech from the Throne, there was a large number of persons about the entrances from an early hour. The crowds who are daily attracted to the Court of Queen's Bench by the protracted and singular trial that is taking place in that court increased the numbers of those present beyond the proportion which usually assemble to see the legislators pass into to take their seats when her Majesty does not come in person to inaugurate the Session. The fitness of the morning had also, no doubt, brought many down to Palace-yard who would not have ventured out in a less favourable state of the weather. To old frequenters of the House of Commons the absence of many familiar faces and the large admixture of strangers who passed through the members' door were very noticeable. Several of the latter who did not come to London during the short meeting in December were in attendance waiting to be sworn in.

The usual formalities attending the summoning of the members of the House of Commons to the House of Lords having been gone through, the LORD CHANCELLOR, one of the Royal Commissioners, read the Royal Speech, as follows:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I recur to your advice at the earliest period permitted by the arrangements consequent upon the retirement of the late Administration.

And it is with special interest that I commend to you the resumption of your labours at a time when the popular branch of the Legislature has been chosen with the advantage of a greatly-enlarged enfranchisement of my faithful and loyal people.

I am able to inform you that my relations with all foreign Powers continue to be most friendly; and I have the satisfaction to believe that they cordially share in the desire by which I am animated for the maintenance of peace. I shall at all times be anxious to use my best exertions for the promotion of this most important object.

In concurrence with my allies, I have endeavoured by friendly interposition to effect a settlement of the differences which have arisen between

Turkey and Greece; and I rejoice that our joint efforts have aided in preventing any serious interruption of tranquillity in the Levant.

I have been engaged in negotiations with the United States of North America for the settlement of questions which affect the interests and the international relations of the two countries; and it is my earnest hope that the result of these negotiations may be to place on a firm and durable basis the friendship which should ever exist between England and America.

I have learnt with grief that disturbances have occurred in New Zealand, and at one spot they have been attended with circumstances of atrocity. I am confident that the Colonial Government and the people will not be wanting either in energy to repress the outbreaks, or in the prudence and moderation which, I trust, may prevent their recurrence.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

The Estimates for the expenditure of the coming financial year will be submitted to you. They have been framed with a careful regard to the efficiency of the services, and they will exhibit a diminished charge upon the country.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The ever-growing wants and diversified interests of the empire will necessarily bring many questions of public policy under your review.

The condition of Ireland permits me to believe that you will be spared the painful necessity which was felt by the late Parliament for narrowing the securities of personal liberty in that country by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act.

I recommend that you should inquire into the present modes of conducting Parliamentary and municipal elections, and should consider whether it may be possible to provide any further guarantee for their tranquillity, purity, and freedom.

A measure will be brought under your notice for the relief of some classes of occupiers from hardships in respect of rating, which appear to be capable of remedy.

You will also be invited to direct your attention to bills for the extension and improvement of education in Scotland, and for rendering the considerable revenues of the Endowed Schools of England more widely effectual for the purposes of instruction.

A measure will be introduced for applying the principle of representation to the control of the County Rate, by the establishment of financial boards for counties.

It will be proposed to you to recur to the subject of Bankruptcy, with a view to the more effective distribution of assets, and to the abolition of imprisonment for debt.

The ecclesiastical arrangements of Ireland will be brought under your consideration at a very early date, and the Legislation which will be necessary in order to their final adjustment will make the largest demands upon the wisdom of Parliament.

I am persuaded that, in the prosecution of the work, you will bear a careful regard to every legitimate interest which it may involve, and that you will be governed by the constant aim to promote the welfare of religion through the principles of equal justice, to secure the action of the undivided feeling and opinion of Ireland on the side of loyalty and law, to efface the memory of former contentions, and to cherish the sympathies of an affectionate people.

In every matter of public interest, and especially in one so weighty, pray that the Almighty may never cease to guide your deliberations, and may bring them to a happy issue.

THE ADDRESS.

The House of Lords reassembled at five o'clock, and the LORD CHANCELLOR, having taken his seat on the woolsack, read the Queen's Speech a second time.

The Earl of CAHNSFORT moved the adoption of the Address in a speech somewhat abounding in nautical metaphor. He dwelt at some length on foreign affairs and on the Irish policy of Ministers.

The Address was seconded by Viscount MONCK, who has lately returned from the great colony which he ruled with vigour and impartiality. His Canadian experience and his tried public services gave point to his advocacy of justice to Ireland, and his condemnation, as an Irishman, of the Irish Church.

When the Address had been read,

LORD CAHNS assumed his new place as the leader of the Opposition in the Lords, and criticised the Ministerial policy with much more acerbity than was exhibited by Mr. Disraeli "in another place."

EARL GRANVILLE followed, with a persuasive and clear elucidation of the principles by which Ministers had been guided in the adoption of the various measures promised in the Royal Speech.

Finally, the Address was adopted without opposition.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

At the evening sitting of the Commons, several notices of motion were given, and amongst them one by Mr. Gladstone that on Monday, March 1, he would move that the Acts relating to the Established Church in Ireland and to the College of Maynooth, and the first resolution of the House in the Session of 1868 with regard to the Irish Church, be read, and that the House should immediately resolve itself into Committee to consider the said Acts; by the Attorney-General, for Friday, the 26th inst., of a bill to amend the law relating to bankruptcy; by Mr. Forster, a bill to amend the law relating to endowed schools; by Mr. Craufurd, a Select Committee on the Scotch poor law; by Mr. Newdegate, for Friday, the 26th inst., of a Committee to inquire into Roman Catholic charities, and into the Act for the registration of burials; by Mr. Maguire, for Tuesday, March 9, his motion relating to the London companies, but substituting inquiry by a Royal Commission for one by a Committee of the House; by Lord R. Montagu, a bill to amend and perpetuate the Acts relating to diseases amongst cattle; by the Solicitor-General, for Tuesday, the 23rd inst., a bill to abolish certain tests connected with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; by Mr. Leatham, for Tuesday, March 16, a motion on the subject of taking votes at elections by ballot; by Mr. P. Taylor (amidst loud laughter), of a bill providing for a return to the ancient constitutional system of payment of members of the House; by Lord E. Cecil, for Friday, March 5, to call attention to the use of fraudulent weights and measures and to the adulteration of food and drinks; by Mr. Fawcett, for March 16, a resolution that appointments in the civil and diplomatic services be obtained by open competition; by Sir T. Bateson, a bill repealing the Party Processions (Ireland) Act; by Sir G. Jenkinson, a motion on the subject of local taxation; and by Mr. Headlam, for Thursday, March 11, a resolution relating to House of Commons accommodation.

THE ADDRESS.

THE SPEAKER then read the Royal Speech from the chair, and Mr. H. F. COWPER (Hertfordshire) moved an Address in reply thereto, and Mr. MUNDELLA (Sheffield) seconded the Address.

MR. DISRAELI (who rose amid some cheers from the Opposition) observed upon the satisfactory circumstance that the Address did not ask the House to express an opinion upon any controverted subject. In dealing with the question of the Irish Church, the Government had certainly a strong *prima facie* claim upon the indulgence of the House, and he hoped that whatever proposition might be submitted on the subject would be considered in a spirit worthy of its gravity and importance, and in a manner calculated to maintain the reputation of Parliament. He had heard with pleasure that our foreign relations were satisfactory, although he regretted that her Majesty's advisers had not informed the House of the means by which the Greco-Turkish difficulty had been adjusted. The Porte had itself vindicated its own independence; and the check which it had given to those inimical to its existence as a Sovereign Power would, he hoped, give a moral lesson to those who desired to disturb the public peace in the East. Having briefly referred to the convention with the United States (the ratification of which, he had hoped, her Majesty might have been able to have announced in her Speech from the Throne), to the paragraph relating to reduction in the Estimates for the public service, and to the working of the new law on election petitions, Mr. Disraeli expressed his regret that no mention had been made of a general measure on the subject of education, for which he apprehended there was as pressing a necessity now as a year ago.

MR. GLADSTONE, in reply to remarks made on certain omissions in the Royal Speech, said that her Majesty could not reasonably be expected to declare her satisfaction with what had happened in Spain, while the work was yet incomplete; and that, as the Cabinet was not yet in possession of the answer of the Hellenic Government, her Majesty could not assume that the whole question was at an end. With respect to America, it was not to be supposed that, because the Royal Speech expressed no overweening confidence, her Majesty's Government entertained the smallest doubt but that the same good sense which had guided the American Government in the negotiations with Lord Stanley would continue to the end. He congratulated Mr. Disraeli on the Reform Act of last Session; and said the intended measure with regard to the mode of conducting elections with tranquillity, purity, and freedom would not deal with the punishment, but the prevention, of electoral offences; and the ratepaying clauses would be dealt with in such a manner as to divest the discussion, as much as possible, of controversy. With regard to education, the introduction of any measure

was postponed to the more pressing question of the Irish Church. He hailed with satisfaction the declaration of the leader of the Opposition with regard to the forthcoming debate, and he hoped Parliament would take a just and dispassionate view of the measures which would be proposed for the settlement of Irish questions and for the welfare and unity of the empire.

After a few brief remarks from other members, the Address was agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Notice was given of the introduction of several motions or measures of importance. On Monday, the 22nd inst., the Home Secretary is to bring in a bill for the more effectual prevention of crime, and Mr. Goschen measures for the establishment of uniformity of assessment in the metropolis and throughout the country. On Wednesday, March 10, Mr. Torrens will call attention to the rating of the metropolis, and will move a resolution suspending all expenditure upon hospitals, asylums, &c., under the Act of 1867, until the subject has undergone further inquiry. At the instance of the Attorney-General and Lord Hill Trevor, the House ordered the production of copies of the shorthand-writer's notes in the election trials at Norwich, Bewdley, Braiford, Guildford, and Drogheda; and in all these cases, probably, motions for Royal Commissions will be founded upon the materials so obtained. Mr. O'Reilly gave notice of his intention to move for the notes of the evidence taken at the trial of the Dublin petition, and to follow up their production by a demand for further investigation. Lord R. Montagu obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend and perpetuate the Acts relating to contagious or infectious diseases among cattle and other animals, which deals also with the subject of the establishment of separate markets for the sale of foreign cattle, and will have especial reference to the case of the metropolis. Mr. Norwood obtained leave to introduce a bill to extend the Admiralty jurisdiction of the county courts. After a new writ had been ordered for the election of a member for the city of London, in the place of the late Mr. C. Bell, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18. HOUSE OF LORDS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in reply to Lord Chelmsford, said the Bankruptcy Bill would first be introduced into the House of Commons, and explained that he had resolved upon that course in deference to some who had offered their opinion on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS.

Mr. GLADSTONE rose to move that the Address be presented by the whole House. He explained that her Majesty was unable to open the Parliament in person owing to more than usual suffering. In her best health the ceremonial taxed her powers to the utmost. He said her Majesty would be pleased to come to London to receive the Address, if so wished; and he would move, "That the said Address be presented to her Majesty by the whole House." He (the right hon. gentleman) hoped the resolution would be received by the House unanimously.

Mr. DISRAELI rose to second the resolution, and said, although the proposition was an unusual one, yet it was wise and judicious. The resolution was agreed to.

EXPENSES OF THE ABYSSINIAN WAR.

Mr. FAWCETT asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is true that India advanced £6,089,100 towards the expenses of the Abyssinian war; whether of this amount £3,089,100 is still due by England to India; whether it is true that India had to borrow a portion of the amount thus advanced from the Bank of Bengal; and, if so, whether her Majesty's Government intend that England or India should pay the interest due upon this loan?

Mr. LOWE said the Government of India communicated on Dec. 17 that they had expended £7,000,000, but since that date he had heard nothing further on the subject.

ENGLISH ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

Mr. W. FORSTER asked leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to endowed schools and other educational endowments in England, and otherwise to provide for the advancement of education. The Commission which was appointed to inquire into the subject of endowed schools had reported, and the principal object of the bill would be to reform the endowed schools in England and Wales. In fact, the bill would be chiefly founded on the recommendation of the Commissioners. He would ask that the bill should be a temporary bill, and should last for four or five years. A provision would be included which should give certificates of competence to schoolmasters. The bill proposed that there should be an Educational Council for examination, consisting of twelve members, two each from Oxford, Cambridge, and London, and five appointed by the Crown. This council should have power to examine masters of endowed schools and grant certificates. The bill also would make provisions for exhibitions in schools. If the House allowed him to bring in the bill he hoped it would be settled this year. He would ask for the second reading that day week.

Leave granted.

PARTY PROCESSIONS IN IRELAND.

Mr. W. JOHNSTONE obtained leave to bring in a bill to repeal an Act intitled "An Act to Restrict Party Processions in Ireland." He said the step he proposed to take would be in accordance with justice and calculated to promote the peace and prosperity of Ireland.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1869.

THE NEW ERA.

THERE is no doubt that we have just entered upon an era of political earnestness; but it is just possible that, along with the benefits of this change, we may have to undergo a few inconveniences. The negligent servant who disregards your will, and never does half what lies within the natural compass of her function, is a very awkward person to have about you; but the over-industrious servant is also a nuisance in her own line. When Maria Jane never would sweep the carpet in the study, or dust the books, or look after the waste-paper basket, things were bad enough; but neither is it agreeable when her successor Betsy Ann persists in "arranging" the papers on your desk, adjusting your memoranda, and exercising her discretion as to what scraps of paper should be burnt and which should be left alone. One is glad enough to part with laziness, but nobody wants meddlesomeness.

For the present, great Imperial questions press so hard upon those who are at the head of affairs in this new era that the spirit of meddlesomeness, which has undoubtedly begun to show itself already, will not have much scope in which to work; but the signs of the times are so striking in this respect that we should be glad to feel that the attention of the press was fully awake to the fact that earnestness, guided by only mediocre intelligence and backed up by what may be called the vanity of putting things to rights, is pretty sure to bring meddlesomeness in its train.

It has for a long time been apparent to watchful observers

that the spirit of the old philosophical Radicalism has been gradually spending itself. Mr. Mill has over and over again, both in his writings and in his speeches, called attention, directly and indirectly, in general terms, and with specific references to current topics, to the decline of this spirit. The germ-ideas of the old Radicalism may be briefly and roughly described as the abolition of privilege; the principle, *quid pro quo* everywhere; and the limitation of the function of Government, as strictly as possible, to the preservation of life and property. Some of the Liberals of this school—not Radicals, indeed, though they had the Radical spirit (for example, Mr. Macaulay and Mr. W. J. Fox, sometime member for Oldham) managed to bring National Education within the terms of their creed, on the ground that nothing, neither life nor property, was safe if the people were not educated. In the present Cabinet the only member who can be said to hang on to the old school of Radicalism is Mr. Lowe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The other members are, we believe without exception, men who are, or are ready to be, quite in harmony with that tendency to general interference and compulsion which is a usual characteristic of democracies, and which has been largely growing in this country in proportion as democracy has been approached. If any one word expressed the spirit of the old Radicalism, that word is *laissez-faire*. But we heard Mr. Stansfeld, in St. James's Hall, congratulate a meeting, largely composed of working men, on the fact that now "the reign of *laissez-faire* was at end if they would only come in and take their places within the pale of the constitution." What Mr. Bright is, we all know; but, intensely democratic as he is, it is impossible that a man with his convictions and of his mould of character in other respects should be a Radical of the old school. Nor is he. We may well laugh at those journalists who amuse themselves and their readers by opining that he will end by being a Conservative; but it is as certain as to-morrow's sun that we shall presently see abundant example of Liberal men doing, or trying to do, work which would not long ago have been assigned to Tories as part of their natural sphere. Almost everywhere there has commenced a tightening of the screw, and a demand for more pressure, which points to an era of interference that may easily slide into meddlesomeness and injustice. If it should, it will be discovered, we hope, that there is at least enough of the old leaven of philosophical Radicalism left to produce one result—namely, a decisive and commanding outcry that the gander shall have the same sauce as the poor goose. It was on this very point that many of the old conflicts—in the days of George III. and the Regent, or a little later—used to turn, and the natural sense of justice is not yet extinct among us. Economy, to take one example only, is an excellent thing. We all rejoice to see the screw applied in that direction, and are ready to raise Oliver Twist's cry for more. But we will not have it confined to Government clerks and small officials. It would take such a length of time to work up from the bottom that we shall grow impatient before long, and want to begin higher up and work downwards. We shudder as we only think of some of the illustrious placemen who may have to be disturbed in their nests if these things should come to pass; nor dare we write down a few of the names that occur to us. If the reader will run his eye over a list of the high public functionaries of this realm, notice the salaries placed against their names, and ask himself what work they do for the money, his own imagination will supply what we dare not write—at present.

However, this is only by the way. The general purport of this article is merely to call the attention of our contemporaries to the transitional character of the time through which we are just now passing, and the rather dangerous abeyance into which certain views which, true or not, were useful checks, have been allowed to fall.

NOT CONVIVIAL.

MR. BRIGHT has been hard hit for his speech at the Fishmongers' dinner last week. Though most of the people present were members of the Church of England, and though the occasion was a festive and not a polemical one, Mr. Bright chaffed the Bishops, and, it is said, sat down without a single cheer. We do not justify him; his speech was a mistake. But we must try and see that he does not receive too many blows for such a lapse in manners. We must remember that he is a Quaker—a man who is supposed to speak that which is given him to say; that he can hardly have had much time to cultivate the convivial proprieties; and, above all, we must forgive a want of polite reticence to the brave man to whose courageous outspokenness we owe so much. There was no malice in what he said, and there was some humour; and really, on the whole, it reminded one of a story of Adam Smith. The father of political economy had some peculiarities. He stood in awe of his old house-keeper, and would not dare to take a bit of lump sugar to eat till she had turned her back to him, though he deated on sugar. Again, he was not convivial, and he had a habit of talking out loud to himself. Being one evening much bored with the frivolous talk of a party of fops who were, to his mind, wasting the time after dinner in utter nonsense, he was seen, with his hands behind him, to pace the room restlessly, muttering to himself—"Parcel of fools; can't say a word worth listening to. I'm tired of 'em." Then, pulling himself up, "Confound it, they'll hear what I am saying!" And then again, as loud as ever, "Well, and what if they do? It's true." One strongly suspects that Mr. Bright's

speech to the Fishmongers was mere blurring out of this sort—talking to himself in too loud a key—and that, in the midst of the abuse he has got for his pains, he has felt himself assisted by Adam Smith's consolation.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY will hold a Levée at Buckingham Palace on March 5, and a Drawingroom on the 10th of the same month. Prince Arthur, on behalf of the Queen, will hold Levées at St. James's Palace on March 12 and 19.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has, it is stated in an Irish journal, commissioned an agent to rent a suitable fishing and shooting lodge for his Royal Highness in the south or west of Ireland.

THE FRENCH PRINCE IMPERIAL is a great amateur of velocipedes. He publicly gained a race the other day in the Tuilleries gardens against his comrade, Dr. Comneau's son, and it is said that he has ordered a dozen velocipedes to make presents of to various young friends.

THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE has, in consequence of ill-health, retired from active duties for a season. The Right Rev. Bishop Anderson will undertake Dr. Waldegrave's duties during his Lordship's absence from home.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON consecrated a new church on Monday at Barnsbury, for a new district taken out of the parish of St. Luke's, West Holloway. His Lordship was received by a large body of the local clergy. The Bishop preached. The Rev. James Ormeston has been appointed to the incumbency of the new church.

HOBART PACHA has been promoted to the rank of Ferik (Rear-Admiral) in the Turkish navy.

MISS GLADSTONE, niece of the Premier, who met with a serious accident in Scotland a few days since, is recovering slowly, though still in a low state.

MR. DICKENS was unable to read at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday. He is suffering from inflammation of the foot, and his medical advisers have ordered him to keep his room for a few days.

PROFESSOR MAX MULLER has been elected one of the eight foreign associates of the French Institute.

THE EASTER VOLUNTEER REVIEW is to be held at Dover this year, on the same ground as in 1867.

THE VOICE OF THE CUCKOO has already been heard in Lancashire.

VISCOUNT JOCELYN was thrown out of a cab on Monday evening, in Hay-hill, Berkeley-square; and it is feared that his spine is injured. His Lordship was taken to Lady Palmerston's residence in Park-lane, and for a time suffered considerable pain; but he is now going on favourably.

THE LORD PRIMATE OF IRELAND has enjoined his clergy, in view of the present dangers to the Irish Church, to direct the attention of the people to the prayer for the High Court of Parliament, which is so familiar to the ears of the people that "its weighty significance is liable to pass unobserved unless they be reminded of it." This prayer has been printed in large type for circulation and use in families.

FOUR FISHERMEN have been drowned in the island of Lewis by the upsetting of their boat. Two of the bodies have been recovered.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP SERPENT has commenced taking deep-sea soundings between Singapore and Galle, with a view to the future laying of a telegraph cable.

TWO MEN employed by Mr. Hopper, brewer, of Brackley, attempting to go through the flood near Oxlebridge, at Lonsborough, in the parish of Buckingham, were swept away by the force of the current and drowned. Three horses were also drowned.

THE ARCHDEACONRY OF SUFFOLK, vacant by the preferment of the Right Rev. Bishop Ryan to the Rectory of St. Nicholas, Guildford, has been conferred by the Bishop of Norwich upon the Rev. Richard Hindes Groom, M.A., Rector of Monk Soham, near Woodbridge.

A PRIEST has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Lyons for cruelty to the pupils placed under his charge. He was accustomed, it appeared, to hang them up by the legs to a hook and then flog them. The accused was only twenty-two years of age.

THE STEAMER NELLIE STEVENS was burnt on Thursday night on the Red River, Arkansas. Sixty-three lives were lost, and forty-three persons were saved.

THE FISHMONGERS have been "going it." They entertained the Bishops the other night, who seemed quite at their ease—possibly because both hosts and guests lived upon the produce of the Seas! (seas).—*Tomahawk.*

THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT has, within a few days, been suspended in Ireland during three years. The first Act was passed in February, 1866, and the measure has since been renewed from time to time with little or no opposition.

COLONEL HENDERSON, the new Chief Commissioner of Police, has issued the following address to the force:—"Colonel Henderson trusts that he will receive the cordial support of the whole police force in the discharge of his important duties, and he will, on his part, devote his utmost energies to promote the efficiency and welfare of the force which he has the honour to command."

THE PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY have received, per Atlantic cable, intelligence that their steamer Africa was totally lost near Pacasmayo, Peru, on the 13th ult. No lives were lost. The vessel is understood to be partially insured in Liverpool.

MR. SAMUEL PERKIN, of Beardon, in the parish of Boyton, near Llan-coston, has met with his death under the following circumstances:—Deceased, in moving a hive of bees, broke the comb. He subsequently went to look at the bees, when one of them stung him in the neck, on or near the jugular vein. He immediately felt faint, and died in fifteen minutes.

A SEVERE GALE swept over Glasgow on Sunday morning, by which a chimney was blown down. The falling mass completely buried two houses, killing five women, a man, and two children, who were in bed at the time.

THE PARIS MINT is at present coining gold pieces of 25*fr.*, according to the plan of the committee on monetary unification. The new coin will have the weight of the English sovereign and will be called The Emperor.

A RITUALISTIC PAPER, the *Church News*, in some remarks on the Bishop of London's speech at St. Albans, earnestly hopes that no Ritualist will leave a stone unturned to give Bishops of this sort as much trouble as possible. "If they give," it says, "we will give; if they take, we will take. But we are not going to quietly submit any longer to the orthodox Episcopal bullying of the last twenty years."

THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTIC ADVERTISEMENT appears in a New York paper:—"If the party who took a fancy to my overcoat was influenced by the inclemency of the weather, all right; but if by commercial considerations, I am ready to negotiate for its return.—JOHN BROUGHAM, No. 325, West Fourteenth-street."

HEINRICH RITTER, the well-known philosopher and historian, has just died, at Göttingen. He was born in 1791, and, after having taken part in the War of Independence (1813), he commenced his career as academical teacher in Berlin, whence he afterwards removed to Kiel and Göttingen. His works are too well known to require any special notice.

THE FUNERAL OF MR. CHARLES BELL, M.P. for the city of London, took place, on Monday, at Kensal-green Cemetery. He was followed to the grave by his nearest relatives, the partners in the firm of Messrs. Thomson, Bonar, and Co., and several distinguished private friends.

A COLLISION on the Glasgow and South-Western Railway is reported. The express-train from Ayr, which is due at Paisley about 9.45 a.m., while waiting outside the Paisley station, was run into by a coal-train. Four or five passengers were bruised and cut, but none were seriously injured. The guard managed to leap from the van before the collision. The driver states that he was unable to stop the engine in consequence of the slippery state of the rails.

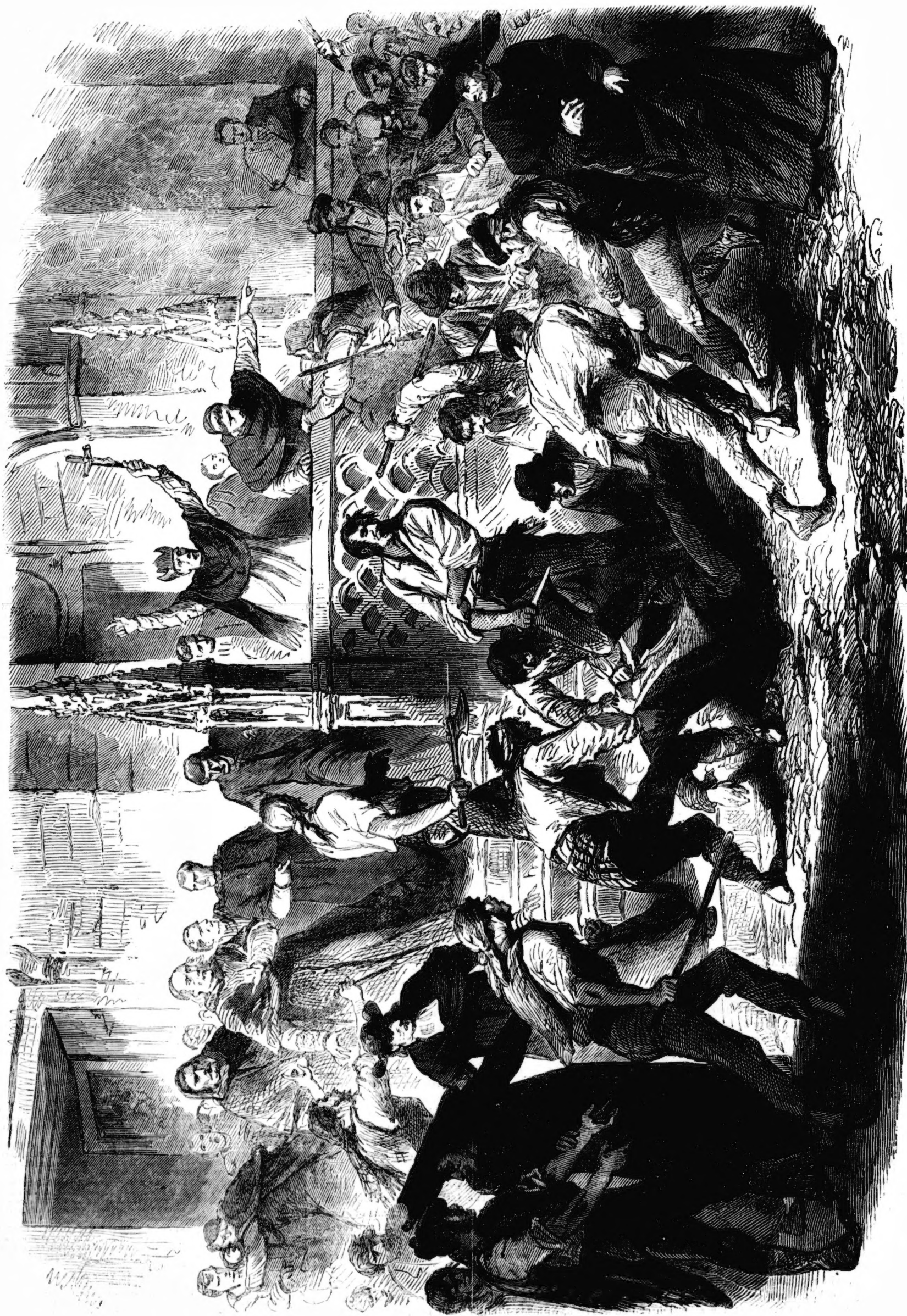
THE FLOATING HULK, CACIQUE, moored in the roadstead at Cayenne, suddenly sunk on Dec. 26, and several convicts perished, notwithstanding that prompt assistance was afforded. The Minister of Marine has ordered an inquiry to ascertain the cause of this disaster.

A BOAT'S CREW, consisting of six men, who attempted to relieve the lighthouse-keeper on the Calv Rock, near Dursay Island, on the southern coast of Ireland, but were unable to land, owing to the violence of the storm, on Friday week, were unfortunately drowned while endeavouring to make their way back to the mainland.

THE ADJOURNED INQUEST on the bodies of Peter Pearson and Sarah Ann Cooper was concluded at Blackwall on Monday. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against the husband of the latter, and a warrant for his apprehension was handed to the police. The alleged murderer has been at large since Sunday week.

THE REV. WILLIAM HUNNYBUN, M.A., Vicar of Bicknoller, Somerset, has resigned his living, and has been received into the Church of Rome. The rev. gentleman was educated at Caius College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1860. He was for some time Curate of North Kelsey, Lincolnshire, and was presented to the Vicarage of Bicknoller in 1867.

COLONEL CHURCHILL, the author of various works on Syria, the Lebanon, the Druses, &c., died at Beyrout on the 1st inst. He arrived from Jerusalem by the Austrian steamer, feeling very unwell, and dropped down dead on reaching his house. It is supposed his death was caused by rupture of the intestines. He married an Arab Princess some years since, and consequently his funeral was numerously attended by Arabs, who had a great respect for Churchill Beg.



THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CIVIL GOVERNOR OF BURGOS, SPAIN.

THE FLOODS IN THE NORTH.

It has already been reported that the recent heavy rains had caused serious floods and great damage in the north of England. Yorkshire and Lancashire especially suffered severely, and scenes similar to that depicted in our Engraving were to be seen in various parts of the country. Travelling by the old North-Midland line, via Castleford to Leeds, on Tuesday, Feb. 9, showed the farmers engaged in the rescue of their stock from the flood waters, more particularly at the confluence of the Wharfe and Ouse rivers, and also in the Aire valley. The water in several places and for considerable distances was just level with the rails. During the day the flood rose so high that hedges disappeared, and a staff of men wading in 2 ft. of water or more had to watch the line, so as to keep floating wood out of the way of passing trains. Under these circumstances the regular conduct of the traffic was difficult. The damage to corn crops and stock must be considerable, and rumour says numerous farmers could not get their sheep away, and have suffered much loss.

One very painful incident connected with the floods is reported. The Rev. Josiah Howard, a Dissenting minister, left Huddersfield on the evening of Wednesday, the 10th inst., to conduct Divine service at an out-station, and had occasion to cross the Holme on his way. He was not again heard of till Monday, when his body was found in a "goit" leading from the river to the canal, between Mr. Dewhurst's and Shorefoot. The "goit" was being emptied, and a little boy discovered the body and gave an alarm. Mr. Greenwood, engineer, superintended the recovering of the body. The deceased's watch was stopped at ten minutes to seven. In his pockets were all his books, and nothing had been disturbed, showing very clearly that he had not met his death through violence. His hat and umbrella have not been recovered.

THE CONVENT SCANDAL.—IN AND OUT OF COURT.

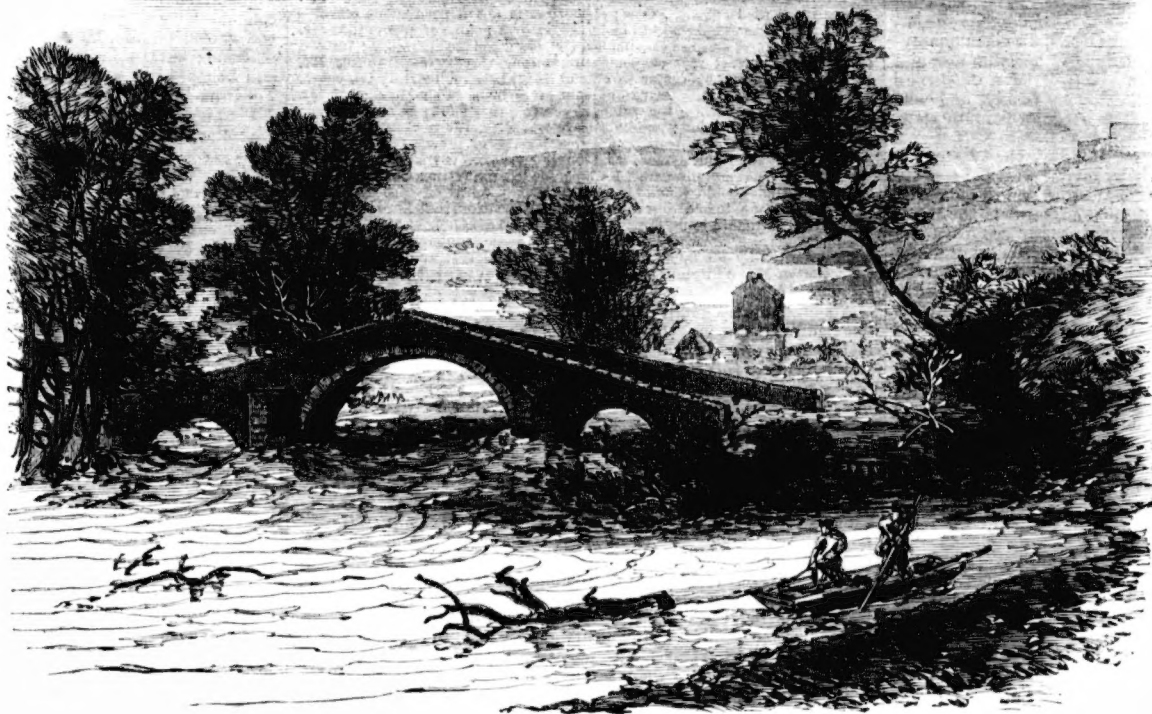
The entrance to Westminster Hall on Monday afternoon reminded one of a Budget night. A dense mass of people were wedged together round the doorway, the road to which was only kept clear by policemen, who stood within a few inches of each other, and formed and kept the men and women waiting into a

compact horseshoe. But for such an arrangement it would have been impossible for those whose duties took them to the Court to have effected an entrance. Considerably more than a thousand well-dressed people stood patiently shoulder to shoulder for hours, without the faintest hope of getting into court, but solely on the chance of seeing one or other of those engaged in what is called "the Great Convent Scandal." Since Leech portrayed the excited children who, thanks to a hole in the circus tent, succeeded in "seeing the 'orses 'boofs" without payment, there has been nothing more comic than the persistent waiting of masses of respectable men and women at the doors of the Court of Queen's Bench since the case of "Saurin v. Star and Kennedy" commenced.

"The longest case I ever tried, and will be, before it is finished, the longest case ever tried within these ancient walls," was the Lord Chief Justice's description of this weary trial on Monday;

for her nun's hood. Her manner was polished and quiet, but she did not appear to be either so calm and self-contained as Mrs. Kennedy, or so impulsive as Mrs. M'Own, both of whom were under examination on Monday. Mrs. M'Own's face was scarcely visible during her examination. But even when in the hands of Mr. Charles Russell, one of the counsel for the defendants, she seemed to speak sometimes under mental protest, at others as if anxious to give the Saurin family a good round scolding, rarely as what lawyers call "a good witness," saying no more and no less than is required. Mrs. Kennedy gave one the impression of a determined, collected woman, who had herself and her faculties well in hand, and who, having come to give her evidence, went through her task without flinching. There is more of the ascetic in Mrs. Kennedy's appearance than in the other sisters we saw; and her thin compressed lips and pale and rather hollow cheeks

and the air of eager anticipation outside has been finely contrasted by the positive tedium and monotony within. The cross-examination of Mrs. Star by the Solicitor-General was not without interest; but the extreme pettiness of the details and the obvious nervousness of the witness made it almost painful at times. When, for example, Sir John Coleridge, holding up a piece of black ribbon with what looked like an embroidered watch-pocket at each end, asked, in his most persuasive and winning manner, whether "this was a scapula;" and when the Lord Chief Justice requested that it might be handed up to him on the bench for inspection, as "he confessed he did not know what a scapula was," Mrs. Star's bearing was that of a woman struggling to keep composed. The veins in her shapely hands—on one of which a ring of some pale metal was worn—grew unusually large as she quietly tapped and drummed the shelf of the witness-box before her, and her black veil and hood nodded to and fro exactly as if they were in a strong wind. The appearance of nuns and priests in an English court of justice is in itself peculiar; and as the place has been plentifully dotted with "sisters," the barristers' wigs and gowns have been rivalled by head-dresses and robes of an even less conventional kind. Mrs. Star answered the questions put to her in a low but clear voice; and even when she hesitated most, the words, when they did come, were always spoken gently. Her expression is more weak than stern. A well-shaped, long nose, a rather plump, pale face, and luminous grey eyes, were all that could be seen



FLOODS IN YORKSHIRE: SCENE ON THE WHARFE.



THE CONVENT CONSPIRACY TRIAL, SAURIN VERSUS STAR, IN THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

seem to speak of penances and mortifications carried out with unflinching rigour. On the Monday Mrs. Star was unwell and had to leave the court before the sitting was over; but Mrs. Kennedy, after her own examination, and some other sisters, sat in the space between the barristers and the bench, now and then consulting a manuscript book or whispering to an attorney, but for the most part remaining motionless, with their heads fixed in the direction of the witness-box. Several priests were seated in the same intermediate space; and in the arched opening to the most distant gallery could be seen another knot of sisters, whose situation, together with their uniform hoods and bands, suggested the organ-loft of a parish church, the charity children of which run unusually large. But, perhaps, the most striking figure in court was that of Miss Saurin, the plaintiff. Draped in the deepest lay mourning, but not affecting any semi-conventional costume, she sits upright and watchful, but without, by word or token, showing she is alive. She is so closely veiled as to resemble a pedestal covered with black cloth. The fashionably-attired and decidedly handsome young lady next her, who now and then finds undisguised amusement in some of Mrs. McOwne's allegations of "rudeness" against the Saurin family, and who seems to regard the entire proceedings from a secular point of view, is said to be the sister of the plaintiff.

The jury looked exceedingly tired on Monday, the two aristocratic loungers who sat on the bench by favour yearned wearily long before the sitting terminated. "To-morrow and to-morrow," remarked the Lord Chief Justice wearily, on adjourning the Court till next morning, for his Lordship had just ascertained from Mr. Mellish that witnesses would be called till Thursday night, and had announced his determination to take a day when the evidence was completed, for the purpose of getting the whole case properly into his head for presentation to the jury; and so the proceedings terminated for the time. The black veiled figure of Miss Saurin, the plaintiff, was still motionless when we left, while the crowd outside had grown larger, and was palpably moved at the sight of a nun's dress as its owner came near the open doorway leading from the Court. Greater interest could not have been displayed if some great state trial had been in progress, instead of the grave question whether a single lady is or is not worthy to be a nun.

Since the close of the case for the plaintiff, and the examination of the principal defendant, Mrs. Star, the evidence adduced has been generally corroborative of that lady's statements and contradictory of those of the plaintiff, Miss Saurin. A dreary repetition of petty details, and still more petty peccadilloes alleged to have been committed by the plaintiff, has wellnigh worn out the patience of Judge, jury, counsel, and, apparently, spectators, for the number of the latter has diminished day by day since Monday, when the interest in the case may be said to have culminated.

THE ASSASSINATION AT BURGOS.

No further information, beyond what appeared in our last week's Number, has been received respecting the late tragedy at Burgos, of which we this week publish an Engraving. The persons condemned for participation in the crime have not yet been executed; and it is said that, with a view to saving their lives, the clerical party is making efforts to obtain the abolition of capital punishment in Spain.

ELECTION PETITIONS.—Mr. Siddbottom, the Conservative, has just escaped, at Stalybridge, by the skin of his teeth. In delivering judgment, last Saturday, Mr. Justice Blackburn said there had been bribery in a mild form by the promise of payment of wages to voters, though agency was not sufficiently proved to void the election. There was no evidence, the Judge thought, of intimidation or treating. At Tamworth Sir Robert Peel and Sir Henry Bulwer have been declared duly elected; as has also Mr. Grieve, the Liberal member for Greenock. The petitions against Messrs. Price and Monk, for Gloucester city, and that against Mr. Jackson, at Hartlepool, have been withdrawn; a similar course is to be taken with respect to the petition against the return of Lord G. H. Cavendish, the Liberal member for North Derbyshire.

ENGLISH RED STOCKINGS.—M. Tardieu, the celebrated chemist, has made some interesting and important experiments with red stockings imported from England. After extracting the colouring matter, he introduced a certain quantity of it beneath the skin of a dog, which died in twelve hours. A rabbit similarly treated expired in eight hours, and a frog in four. Opening the animals, M. Tardieu re-extracted the red colouring matter from their bodies, and with it dyed a skein of silk. In his report, communicated to the Académie des Sciences, M. Tardieu condemns the use of "coraline" (the mineral poison to which the fatal stockings owe their brilliant but deceptive hue) as an article of general commerce; and recommends that the importation of red stockings from England be absolutely prohibited.

CHANGES IN PARLIAMENT.—Since the House of Lords last assembled for debate a new Archbishop of Canterbury has been appointed, and the sees of London, Lincoln, and Peterborough have also been filled. So many changes in the hierarchy have not taken place within so short a period for several years. A parallel, however, is to be found in the experience of the autumn of 1862, when Lord Palmerston was called upon to nominate to the provinces of Canterbury, York, and Armagh, and to the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol. Since the House of Commons assembled on Dec. 29 the following members of the Government have been re-elected without opposition:—Sir Colman O'Loughlin for Clare, Mr. Sullivan for Mallow, Lord Otho Fitzgerald for Kildare, Mr. C. Fortescue for Louth, Lord Castlereagh for Kerry, Captain Greville Nugent for Westmeath, Mr. Adam for Clackmannan and Kinross, Mr. Prevelyan for the Border Burghs, and Mr. Young for Wigan. During the recess the Home Secretary has been elected for Renfrewshire and Colonel Wilnot for the southern division of Derby, both in succession to deceased members. There are now nine seats vacant—viz., Bowdley, Bradford, Drogheda, Dublin, London city, Norwich, Radnor borough, Westbury, and Wexford. Five of these were filled by Conservatives, and four by Liberals.

GENERAL BALFOUR.—Major-General George Balfour, C.B., R.A., who was appointed, in 1867, temporarily to assist Sir Henry Storks in the re-organisation of the War Departments, has, we learn, left the War Office, having resigned his post. While at the War Office General Balfour was remarkable for energy in meeting difficulties, indefatigable industry, and indomitable perseverance. General Balfour has served in the Artillery since 1826. In 1840 he went to China as a Staff officer, and was Consul at Shanghai. He was subsequently made a member of the Military Board of the Madras Presidency, which had control over all the departments of the army, except as to pay and discipline. In 1859 he was appointed a member of the Military Finance Commission, and afterwards chief of the Finance department of India. In 1869 he was specially commissioned by Lord Canning to inquire into the condition of the native and European troops forming the garrison of Burma, and in 1866 he was employed on the Recruiting Commission in England. His voluminous and minute evidence before Lord Strathairn's Committee on Army organisation led to his nomination as assistant to the Controller-in-Chief at the War Office. General Balfour married a daughter of the late Joseph Hume, and he may be said to be of the "thorough" retrenching and economical school. General Balfour's resignation has not been accepted by the Secretary of State for War, and he has resumed his duties at the War Office.

EMIGRATION CLUBS.—The Rev. A. Styleman Herring, Incumbent of St. Paul's, Clerkenwell, writes as follows on the subject of emigration clubs:—"In Clerkenwell, and elsewhere, such institutions are carried on with marked success. Each member is required to subscribe weekly, with the understanding that should he wish to withdraw, 'he can'—only forfeiting the entrance fee, which goes for expenses. At each meeting the president reads or speaks on Emigration in general, or of some particular colony; discussion then follows. Each member, duly authenticated by the president, secretary, or treasurer, has a book to gather subscriptions for the society; but, on the distinct understanding that such sums be placed to his individual credit for passage, &c. A circular, with good substantial names for the committee, should be freely circulated in the neighbourhood. Help will come in: for the English love to 'help them who help themselves.' Excellent and reliable books on each of the colonies (price 4d. to 7d.) are published by Messrs. Algar, 11, Clement's-lane, Lombard-street, and for 10s. a serviceable colonial library supplied. Good shipping agents are obtainable. Emigration clubs might easily be formed in most towns and villages with great present and future benefits to the working classes. Let religion and temperance hold a prominent place at these meetings. The whole subject is intensely interesting, and will amply repay the philanthropist, be he cleric or layman. One cannot but sincerely hope that the whole question of pauper and assisted emigration will, during the present Session, be taken up by Government. Public lecturers might also be appointed. We should also like to hear the old popular song of 'Cheer! boys, cheer! no more of idle sorrow,' again rung throughout old England to cheer up many a drooping heart. I have in Clerkenwell an emigration club of upwards of 300 members, and everything bids fair to be a complete success. I want funds to send off some families to Canada, and shall be very thankful to receive any subscriptions."

THE LOUNGER.

THE following letter touches upon a sore subject, which has been a good deal commented upon in the clubs. No doubt Mr. Whitmore is an ill-used man. He has been, as the writers say, a very careful and hardworking whip to the Conservative party for thirteen years, and is much the senior of Mr. Noel; and when Colonel Taylor resigned his office as chief whip, common courtesy demanded that Mr. Whitmore should have the place. It was not, though, offered to him, and of course he resigned. It could not be expected that he would serve under Mr. Noel. My correspondent says:—

Dear Sir,—I have read with great satisfaction your remarks upon "Parliamentary Whips." For many years I have watched the careers of Colonel Taylor and Mr. Whitmore. I may, therefore, venture to remind you that Colonel Taylor did receive some recognition of his services, as he was made a Privy Councillor and appointed to the Duchy of Lancaster before Mr. Disraeli resigned office. [True; but that is not a permanent office.—Lounge.] It then appeared to be in the natural course of events that Mr. Taylor should succeed Colonel Taylor as Patronage Secretary; instead of which Mr. Noel receives that promotion, thereby superseding Mr. Whitmore, who was his senior in official life, I believe, by fully ten years. There could be no alternative but that Mr. Whitmore should then resign his appointment as whip, for which, as you so justly show, he had received inadequate remuneration; and he thus retires without any tangible reward for thirteen years of labour. So strong a sense of justice pervades your observations that I am induced to trouble you with these few facts; and although I do not add my name, I am persuaded that either Colonel Taylor or Mr. Whitmore could vouch for their truth.

It occurs to me, in addition to the cases you mention, that Lord Mulgrave (now Lord Normanby) and Lord Moneck, who have both held high colonial appointments, were "whips," as also Sir William Dunbar, whose services were rewarded by an appointment in the Audit Office; and I imagine the treatment of Mr. Whitmore by the late Government to be almost WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

Amongst other changes in the House of Commons, there is one which all who are obliged to "feed" there will regret. Mr. Lucas has resigned the office of manager of the refreshment department. Mr. Lucas has held this post for several years; and it is simple truth to say that he was the most successful caterer that the House ever had. Not a complaint has ever been made, and hardly a murmur has been heard. His only fault was that, attracted by his viands and cookery, so many members took to dining at the House that it was sometimes difficult to find room in the contracted refreshment-room. But if this be a fault, it is a fault that leans to virtue's side. The cause why Mr. Lucas resigned was the very sufficient reason that, with the present allowance from the House, he could not make the thing pay. The dining-room, under his superior management, was never very profitable; but last Session, when the Government made the change in the morning sittings, he incurred a heavy loss. It will be seen how this was when it is remembered that formerly the House used to meet at twelve, break up at four, and reassemble at six. But by the new arrangement the House met at two, broke up at seven, and reassembled at nine. Of course, when the House had two morning sittings a week, as it generally does for a month or two at the end of the Session, Mr. Lucas, for two days a week, had very few diners, although he had to keep on his expensive staff of waiters. Well; he is gone, and another caterer is appointed. He hopes to make the thing pay. There can, however, be only one way to do so; and that is by not doing the thing so well. His receipts will not be more; and if he reduces his expenses, we know what must happen. Your Lounge, in the way of his vocation, has often to dine at the House, and he, for one, as the saying is, mourns the departure of Mr. Lucas.

Apocryphal to the Lord Chamberlain's notice of scant clothing at theatres, the following extract from "The Diary of the Right Honourable W. Wyndham" (Longman, 1863), is worth publishing:—"Dec. 9, 1797.—Opera for the first time. Dance of 'Bacchus and Ariadne.' We have advanced to the point of seeing people dance naked."

Mr. Mitchell, of Old Bond-street, publisher to her Majesty, announces the publication of a work entitled "Highlanders of Scotland, portraits illustrative of the principal clans and followings, and the retainers of the Royal household at Balmoral in the reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria, comprising the Royal Stuarts, Argyle men, Athole men, Breadalbane men, Camerons, Chisholms, Colquhouns, Drummonds, Duff men, Farquharsons, Forbeses, Frasers, Gordons, Grants, Harris men, Keppoch men, Macdonalds, Macdougals, Macgregors, McIntoshes, McKays, McKenzies, McLeans, McLeods, Macneills, Macnaughtons, Macnabs, McPhersons, Menzieses, Munros, Murrays, Robertsons, Stewarts, Sutherland men, &c. To consist of thirty-one plates, coloured after the original drawings, made by express command, for her Majesty's collection, by Kenneth Macleay, Esq., R.S.A.; with a copious notice of each illustration, from authentic sources." The original drawings for the illustrations to this work are now on view at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 83, Old Bond-street.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Besides the opening chapters of a new story, "The Woman of Business," by Mr. W. Marmion Savage, and a long poem "The Prodigal," by W. B. Scott, the *Fortnightly* has two high-class scientific papers, one by Professor Huxley "On the Physical Basis of Life," and one by Professor Tyndall on "Chemical Rays and the Light of the Sky." Mr. J. M. Cape, on "Schubert," is very good, and Mr. J. Herbert Stack on "Mr. Anthony Trollope's Novels" is, I believe, quite right in saying that the "Last Chronicle of Barset," in some respects the very finest of Mr. Trollope's stories, has lost both power and unity by the interpolated matter. Will Mr. Trollope listen to the universal voice, and cut out what now prevents the work from being his masterpiece? Mr. Stack is quite wrong here and there. He asks, "What should we think if Hogarth put little tickets on his pictures with 'Observe the weakness of human nature in this Rake' and so on?" Surely Mr. Stack must be aware that in his prints, Hogarth did that very thing in a copy of verses attached! Again, though it is perfectly true that there are heights and depths in life which Mr. Trollope never attempts, it would be very bad policy if he were to attempt them. On his own ground he is almost perfect; on another, he would be a grotesque failure. Indeed, Mr. Trollope never comes near what may be termed *fine moral issues* without betraying a certain clumsiness, even as it is. To pass on: I suppose the fact that the *Fortnightly* has reached a third edition is to be attributed to the admirably-constructed paper on "Protoplasm," by Professor Huxley. Up to "But I bid you beware," on page 140, I not only follow the Professor in his powerful and luminous exposition, but I labour under the misfortune of not seeing why it was wanted. I should have thought the absolute and universal interconvertibility of all matter was an obvious truth; but why it should be supposed to involve what he calls "materialism" I never could see. On the other hand, it seems to me that Professor Huxley's conclusion is in fact materialistic, and his disclaimer only a dialectic evasion (using the noun in no bad sense whatever). Nor is this all. After having emphatically thrown overboard (if I understand him) all but science proper, he proceeds to say:—"We live in a world which is full of ignorance and misery, and the plain duty of each and all of us is to try and improve his own corner of the world. Will Professor Huxley endeavour to make clear to us where he finds out what 'our plain duty' is, if he shuts himself up to science? I know how arrogantly the new school of scientific men talk upon this subject; but if they would just pocket their arrogance, and tell us in what way they found their schemes of morals, we should soon come to an understanding; and I dare to assert that Professor Huxley could scarcely engage in a more useful task."

There is no limit to the "stupidity against which the gods themselves are powerless." In the *Contemporary*, here is Professor Bonamy Price—one of the most clear-headed men and most lucid writers in England—coming forward, on compulsion, to explain (!) what he meant when he stated in the *Times* that "the Church of England is an institution created by the law, and it is nothing else what-

ever; everything which constitutes it a society, every relation between man and man which belongs to it as a society, is law-made." The italics are mine; they make the statement almost superfluously plain. But will it be credited that Professor Price, in those words relating to the institution, has been supposed to have intended to deny that there was anything in the moral and spiritual working of the institution by the individuals who are legally its members except what was "law-made"? Mr. Bonamy Price devotes seventeen pages to explain that he did not mean this; and admirable, indeed, the explanation is; but—the good, patient gods have mercy on those who made it necessary! Mr. George Stott contributes a very able and well-written paper on "Charles Dickens;" but as an estimate it is a great piece of injustice—in fact, a blunder. On the paper by "J. T. K." upon the "Alternations of Science and Art in History" I can offer no opinion at present. The Rev. R. St. John Tyrwhitt concludes his series of Art-papers. It is a pity that, writing on the whole so nobly, he was not a little less discursive and quasi-personal; but, to imitate his own style, he is a splendid fellow, and I should like to have a jaw with him over Clough's "Booth of Tobac-na-Volich."

I believe *Good Words for the Young* is the very cheapest magazine that ever was printed, and am tempted to add, the very best. Letterpress and illustrations are alike admirable.

Mr. Arthur Helps has begun a series of "Short Essays" in *Good Words* senior. The "Good Words" Commissioner is among the Connaught Cotters. "Debenham's Vow" is good; but "Noblesse Oblige" is better, and everybody will be glad to see the authoress of "Citoyenne Jacqueline" moving in so free and so unstilted a way. No amount of sympathy with the object of Dean Alford's "Pamphlets for the People" could make me believe that they will not raise more questions than they will satisfy; and, in fact, do harm rather than good. Dean Alford has written genuine poetry—one of the most beautiful sonnets in the language ("Rise, said the Master, Come unto the Feast!") is his; he is a man of great practical sagacity, honesty, and moral courage; but as a thinker I always find him confusing. The argument on propagandism in this particular pamphlet seems to me unfairly stated. Is the sword of use in propagandism or not? If not, *cuius propter*, strike out the item on both sides of the sum, and say nothing about the sword of Mohammed. If you say yes in one case, but not in the other, you raise another and logically antecedent question—that, namely, of the inherent characters (as distinguished from the proved effects) of different faiths. But, taking the argument as it is put here, all the talk in the world about "copper palus and leaden aloe" will not silence obvious questions about Constantine, Charlemagne, Olaf, and the progress of Mohammedanism in the interior of Africa. Then, again, take that glaringly false parallel made by the Dean between an idea at which, he admits, "natural instinct rebels," and the fact that "any assignable quantity divided by zero gives as its quotient infinity." This is a purely abstract difficulty, existing nowhere but in the symbols used. Wipe the slate clean and the puzzle is over, since there is no such entity as "Zero" or "Infinity." The falseness of this pretended analogy has been stated again and again. And all that need be added is, that if the parallel is a true one, it is a great mercy nobody has ever been ingenious enough to push it as far as it will go—that is to say, to the utter destruction of moral truth in every shape. Still worse are the passages in which Dean Alford accounts for differences of opinion on certain critical questions by "low grades of capacity and feeble powers of appreciation." If a bludgeon of this kind is used in controversy it ought at least to be apologised for as inevitable. But it is my duty to tell the readers of this column that there are living divines in the Church of England and out of it, and some distinguished writers, none of whom are visibly inferior to Dean Alford in "capacity" or "power of appreciation," and all of whom are credited with spirituality of mind and purity of life, who would not only dissent from his argument, but would tell him that he is playing a most dangerous game in giving a question of the kind such a mighty leverage. The strength of other portions of the argument might have led the Dean either to omit the point altogether, or, if he introduced it, to put the case at its very lowest:—"Admit so-and-so, and—what then?"

In the *Sunday Magazine* both the stories are capital, and all the illustrations. But that on page 305 is rather ugly. By-the-way, I forgot to mention last month for the benefit of the writer of the monthly "Notes" that "Manchester New College" is not at Manchester, but in Gordon-square, London. Turning to "Fire-side Homilies," I have here again to fall out with Dean Alford. Beautiful as are his comments upon the pictures, the argument on page 289, lines nineteen to twenty-six inclusive, of the extract, is sheer Mediaevalism, without any "reason of being," except an Oriental fancy which has trickled down to us through the Dark Ages. The real final reason of the case is one of self-respect and respect for others (and very easily definable in precise, unchanging, universal terms). The reason assigned by Dean Alford would make it a duty to cover up the hands with which we steal and murder; and, in fact, to smother ourselves. The hypothesis of the paper is expressed—that this passage is read to "Jessie" and "Margey" by her father; and it is, in my opinion, a most repulsive hypothesis. It would have been far better to omit the passage, and also, by-the-by, the last sentence in the middle paragraph of the second column of page 318, in the article by Dr. Preissel. The fact is of no importance; but, if I understand the statement, it has, if any significance at all, a tendency to make one think less of the type rather than otherwise. Lastly, whatever Dr. Preissel or anybody else may say, the fact is that the Jews are being rapidly absorbed by other races.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The many inconveniences which may spring from phenomenal resemblances have received another illustration at the hands of Mr. Watts Phillips in his "new drama" "Not Guilty," produced this week at the QUEEN'S. This drama is a very unsatisfactory version of a very unsatisfactory French piece, "Le Comte de St. Hélène." The piece is, from beginning to end, a series of absurdities and impossibilities, woven into a plot which is simply incomprehensible. A dramatist who proposes to deal with the inconvenient consequences of an extraordinary resemblance between two of the personages of his drama should remember that, unless great care be taken, a confusion in the minds of his audience as to their respective identities is likely to be the most prominent inconvenience of all. In the present case this probability is heightened into absolute certainty by the fact that one of his Dromios changes his dress as often as Mr. Woodin does in a "personation entertainment," and I defy that portion of the audience which is not provided with playbills (a very considerable proportion) to distinguish between Mr. Emery as Silas Jarret in disguise and Mr. Emery as the virtuous but unfortunate Captain Willoughby. The complications that result from this clumsy arrangement are increased by the fact that Miss Hodson plays a mother in the first two acts, and her daughter in the last two. It is impossible to give a clear outline of the plot; it must suffice to say that it affords Mr. Johnson an opportunity of constructing many elaborate "sets" which alternate with foolish "front scenes" of superlative length. Some of the scenery is well painted—particularly the only two scenes which were not hailed with absolute enthusiasm by the audience; indeed, the scenes which appeared to afford the highest gratification were little more than elaborate pieces of carpentry. Mr. Johnson, the scenic artist, took the liberty of rushing on to the stage four or five times in the course of the piece in acknowledgment of the applause with which his efforts were rewarded, and on the last occasion he was so soundly hissed that he probably does not stand in need of any further remonstrance on the subject. It is to be hoped that first-night audiences (a special class for the most part) will for the future discourage these impertinences. It is quite right and proper that a scenic artist's skill should meet with the public acknowledgment implied in a "call," but he should be content to wait until the end of the piece, and share the honours with his in-

Mr. Emery was better as a captain; but even in the burglar his identity with the conventional nonsense he had to utter, played the two parts (mother and daughter) assigned to him—particularly the daughter, in the Bhurtpoor scene, assuming an impossible comic convict, was received with every demonstration of success, and he was unmoved before the curtain as usual.

Palmer Simpson's "historical panorama," called "Marie Antoinette," with complete success, at the Theatre Royal. The piece opens well, and the first act is fully written and carefully constructed; but the second act is completely lost, after the second act, in a series of unnecessary and unintelligible front scenes. As the piece is undergoing "revision" at the hands of a celebrated fashioner of other men's ideas since it left Mr. Simpson's desk, it is impossible to hold the ostensible author responsible for the excesses with which the latter half of the piece abounds. The second act, which deals with the execution of the unfortunate Austrian, is marred by a hideous piece of butchery—a man is bayoneted by soldiers, and, in dying, exposes his shirt-front, saturated with blood. It is to be hoped that this disgusting piece of bad taste will be omitted in future representations. Miss Beatrice played the unhappy Queen with grace and dignity, but seemed to lack force in most of the powerful situations with which the piece abounds. Mr. George Vinning's make-up as Louis XVI. was simply perfect as far as his face was concerned; but the character is not one which is suited to him apart from his personal resemblance to the portraits of that unfortunate King. A clever little child, called Kate Howard, played the Dauphin with natural intelligence. The debutante, however, who is five years old, ought to have been in bed hours before the curtain rose. The scenery is magnificent, and it may be mentioned in honour of Mr. Lloyd, who is an artist in every sense of the word, that on a single occasion did he attempt to mar the beauty of his scene by rushing on to acknowledge the hearty applause with which it was greeted. The costumes are splendid, and notwithstanding the fact that the piece dragged seriously in the third and fourth acts, it will probably run for a considerable time.

Mr. Watt's Phillips's second new play, "Fettered," which was produced at the Haymarket last Wednesday, is described as "new and original," and I see no reason to doubt the accuracy of the description. I should be sorry to suppose that Mr. Phillips had found it necessary to resort to another man's brains in order to compile so childish a plot as that upon which "Fettered" is constructed. It is a very poor Coburg melodrama, with "strong situations" of the most conventional description. An adventurer, who has been married to and separated from a good and beautiful young lady, pays court to another good and beautiful young lady, and who should this second good and beautiful young lady be but the chosen companion and bosom friend of the first good and beautiful young lady! But when the first young lady discovers this unfortunate state of things, does she immediately tell the second young lady of the real character of her lover? Oh, no! for that would bring the piece to the end at the second act. So she pretends a discreet silence on this comparatively unimportant point, and the management between the second young lady and her young husband is allowed to go on. Finally, however, the villain is discovered (not through the agency of the police, but a detective who is employed for the purpose), and himself to be robbed by the very man he has been married to, and the consequence of the discovery is that he is hanged. The plot, which pulls the string of a piece, which has the effect of wrapping the whole village in which the last act takes place, is a very well played, particularly by Miss Jackson, and Mr. Foster, and the scenery, by Mr. T. Grieve, is excellent. Mr. Phillips has a conventional low comedy part, which he played in a very conventional manner. The piece was extremely well received, and may very probably have a respectable run; for the "strong situations" of the piece are well returned of enjoying the accepted conventional melodramatic stage.

OBITUARY.

FUAD PACHA.—Fuad Pacha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Government, died at Nice on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 11, of a complaint from which he has been suffering for many months. Fuad Pacha was born in Constantinople in 1811. His father was a Mollah or Judge, much given to poetry, and his mother was the celebrated Laila Khatoon, one of the few Ottoman poetesses whose works have been printed. In 1828, Fuad's father having fallen into disgrace with the Court, his property was confiscated, and he was exiled. Fuad did not accompany him, but devoted himself to the study of medicine in the schools of Galata. In 1834 he was serving in the Turkish navy, and afterwards entered the interpreters' office of the Government, an important post, and one of the nature of a school for politics and a department of the public service. His debut in public life was at the critical period of the death of Sultan Mahmud II, when the successes of Mehmed Ali threatened the Ottoman empire. Anxious to conciliate the European Powers, the Turkish Government sent missions to each Court, and to the one which proceeded to England Fuad was attached in the capacity of secretary. In 1843 he was appointed second interpreter to the Porte, and was shortly afterwards sent on a special mission to Spain, to congratulate Isabella II. on her accession to the throne, being at the same time intrusted with a mission to the Court of Donna Maria of Portugal, and returned home decorated with the orders of the Tower and the Lion of St. Mark. To this was added, in 1844, the Legion of Honour, sent by the Duke of Montpensier in acknowledgment of services rendered by him as Grand Interpreter during the Duke's visit to Constantinople. About this time he published his poem, "The Alhambra," which embodies his collections of Spain, and gained for him great popularity with countrymen. During the disturbances in the Principality, which followed the revolution of 1848, Fuad was Ottoman Commissioner at Vienna, and after the Hungarian war he was sent on a mission to St. Petersburg, at the conclusion of which he was made Home Secretary under the viceroyship of Ali Pacha. The publication of a pamphlet by him in 1853, entitled "The Truth upon the Question of the Holy Places," so excited the indignation of Prince Nikitich, that, to avoid insult, he was compelled to tender his resignation to the Sultan. He was Commissioner at the headquarters of Omar Pacha in the Crimean War; nominated, in 1855, to the rank of Mushir and title of Pacha; and in 1856 Minister for Foreign Affairs. He was named Turkish Commissioner in the unfortunate Druse rebellion of 1860; Grand Vizier of the Empire in 1861, retiring in January, 1863; and became Minister of War, Feb. 12 in the same year; and Foreign Minister, Feb. 11, 1867. Fuad Pacha, who, owing probably to his constant and continuous contact with European nations, belonged to the liberal school, was a member of the Académie Impériale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres, received the order of the Medjidie, and several foreign orders, and was the author of a Turkish grammar.

DR. EPPS.—A wide circle of friends and the public will learn with regret of the death of this well-known and highly-esteemed gentleman, which took place at his residence in Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, on Friday week, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. Dr. Epps was an active and robust Reformer of a past generation, Dr. Epps inherited much of the energy and public spirit of his father, and it can be safely said that no public movement for the advancement of religious, political, or commercial freedom

has, during the last forty years, been inaugurated in England without his most cordial sympathy and assistance. His love of religious equality brought him early in life into active co-operation with the eminent reformers of his day in procuring Catholic emancipation and the repeal of the Test Acts, in resistance to church rates, and the relief of Nonconformists. A disciple of Major Cartwright, he associated himself with Francis Place, W. J. Fox, Lardet, and the men of 1832 in the council of the political unions in London, in agitating for the Reform Bill. He was an active member of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and, with Campbell, Lord Dudley Stuart, Mazzini, and others, joined organisations in favour of the Polish, Italian, Hungarian, and American nationalities. As homoeopathic practitioner, Dr. Epps wrote many works that are held in high estimation among the friends of that theory of medicine. He had long been afflicted with asthma, which, with an attack of paralysis of the brain, terminated his laborious and useful life.

CHARGE OF CORRUPTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

At Bow-street, on Wednesday, Mr. Thomas Gambier, one of the first clerks to the Storekeeper's Department, Admiralty, Somerset House, and Mr. William Rumble, inspector of machinery afloat, were brought up in custody of Inspector Clarke, Sergeant Langley, and Sergeant Sayer, of the detective police, upon a warrant issued by Sir Thomas Henry, charging them with having conspired to obtain the sum of £30 from Mr. Nicholas Mahon Maxwell by false and fraudulent pretences. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Bristowe, the solicitor to the Admiralty; and the Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Baxter, was present to watch the case. After the warrant had been read over by Mr. Barnaby, chief clerk,

Mr. Bristowe said that he had been instructed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to prosecute in the case, which was one of national importance, against the prisoners for conspiring to defraud. He should first mention the status in life of the accused, as it was material to the case. Mr. Gambier is a clerk in the Storekeeper-General's Department, the other prisoner being the inspector of the machinery afloat. The facts are these:—Mr. Maxwell is one of the persons who lately tendered for the supply of timber to the Admiralty, and was waited upon last January by the prisoner Rumble, who told him that he could "get him the contract," or, in other words, get the tender accepted, but that he should require some pecuniary consideration. Mr. Maxwell, actuated obviously by a very laudable motive, called on the Registrar of Contracts, Mr. Antonio Brady, and told him what had occurred. Mr. Brady was surprised and shocked at the statement, and took immediate steps to discover the origin and details of the conspiracy. It turned out that the prisoner Rumble alleged that he had friends high in office in the Admiralty Department at Somerset House, and that from them he could get the necessary information and could get tenders for contracts accepted; and that when goods were supplied under a contract he could get the goods accepted. Gambier was not referred to by name, but when Rumble was asked how he got his information and influence, he said he had friends high in office; and in order to impress that on Mr. Maxwell, he brought him, a few days afterwards, the letter accepting his own (Mr. Maxwell's) contract. The authorities, in the exercise of their discretion and in order to discover the nature and extent of a system which, if it had any ramifications at all, must be tested to the bottom, allowed matters to go on, and Mr. Antonio Brady, the Registrar, gave Inspector Clarke a cheque for £30, with certain instructions. The Inspector accordingly delivered to Mr. Maxwell three £10 notes, which the latter gave to Rumble. Two of these notes have been traced, one to Rumble and the other to Gambier. If he established these facts, he submitted that he should be entitled to a remand, and he was quite sure that the learned chief magistrate would consider that his time had not been taken up improperly, but would to the utmost of his power assist the Government in this truly important inquiry. The public service would be very much damaged, not merely by the fact that moneys were received by persons holding offices of trust to betray the duty which they ought to perform, but because the Government of the country would be brought into such discredit, and the carrying on of the business of the departments would be rendered most difficult. The fact that Mr. Baxter, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Admiralty, attended to watch these proceedings would assure the chief magistrate that Government considered them as of the highest importance and were determined to probe the matter to the bottom. Mr. Bristowe proceeded to call the following witnesses:—

Mr. Nicholas Mahon Maxwell deposed—I have an office at 4, All-hallows Chambers, 49, Lombard-street. I am a mining engineer and timber-merchant. I sent in a proposal to the Admiralty for a contract for elm timber for several of the dockyards about Jan. 12 last. I sent it in to the Admiralty, Somerset House. Outside was marked "Tender for elm timber." On Friday, the 15th, the prisoner Rumble called upon me at my office. I said, "What can I do for you?" He said, "That depends on yourself." I said, "How so?" He said, "You have tendered for elm timber, but you won't get your contract unless you use influence at the office." I said, "I consider this to be a matter that should rest on its own merits, and if my own brother were the person to decide it I would not ask him to do so." He replied, "Well, you won't get the contract unless you give a small consideration. It is at present between you and another person who has tendered, and unless you make terms with me you will certainly lose the contract. Even should you get it, you will certainly find that a great portion of your goods will be rejected, as in the case of a new contractor for coals, who found great difficulty in carrying out his contract, which might have been avoided if he had given me £20 or £30 to get the matter through for him." I replied, "I cannot help that. I shall not use or pay for any influence. I am not sufficiently anxious to get the contract to induce me to give a bribe to anyone to use their influence." Rumble replied, "Very well; I will do the best I can for you, and after you have got the contract perhaps you will do something for me." On the following day I received a note from Rumble making an appointment for the following Monday, on which day he again called upon me at twelve o'clock, or about that time. I said to him, "Well, I received your note; but your prophecy was not correct. I have as yet received no letter from the Admiralty." He said, "But you will in a day or two." I said, "How do you know that?" He replied, "I find out by my friend." I said, "He must be pretty high up in office; who is he?" He replied, "I can't mention names." I said, "It is not Mr. Childers, I presume?" He answered, "Not very far from him, though; he is pretty high up." I said, "In the event of your receiving £20 or £30 from me, would you keep the whole of it, or would you have to share it with any other person?" He said, "I should have to divide it with my friend." I said, "Well, as I have no official intimation as yet, I am not certain that your information is correct." He said, "Well, you will see I have great influence, and when you want your accounts passed I shall be able to show you how to do it quickly. However, I will call again in a day or two, and let you know how things are getting on." About the same time of the day on the 22nd he called again, and told me that the contract was smashed up; that his friend had made a row about it, and said that it was not fair towards people tendering, but that the new board was very difficult to deal with. He added, "You see they were pretty close upon your heels, one £25 10s. and yours £214." He told me there was a large India and China coal contract coming out, and that the last contract was lost by 1d. a ton. He said he would give me timely notice of the contract coming out. He said, "You will have a letter referring to the contract by post to-morrow, or I shall bring it to you in my pocket." He called again on the 23rd, and said, "Here you are, Sir; here is your letter," handing me the one produced. I said, "Was this obtained through your influence?" He replied, "Most certainly; if I had not used my influence you would not have got it." I said, "How is it that I did not get the

Chatham and Sheerness contracts?" He replied, "You were much better without them. They are great humbugs down there and there is great difficulty in getting your stuff in. I will let you know when you will be publicly called upon to deliver any part of the wood." I said, "Will you call again on Monday?" He said, "No; I am going down to Staffordshire, and shall not see you till Monday week." On Feb. 1 he called; and I sent word that I was busy. He left word that he would call at twelve the next day. He called accordingly, and amongst other matters I said, "Do you distinctly say that you have to divide what I give you with another?" He said, "Yes, between two." I said, "Two besides yourself?" He said, "No; one besides myself." I then handed him three Bank of England notes for £10 each, which I had received from Inspector Clarke. The next day he called again, and said, "Well, you can go up and sign the contract, and send in the wood as soon as you like, and you will get your money in four days afterwards. He (meaning the friend) is much pleased, and will give you some large things when he knows what line you would like." I afterwards wrote a note to Rumble.

The first note mentioned as being written by Rumble was here put in, and was as follows:—"Friday afternoon, four p.m. The party who called upon you this morning is happy to inform you that the elm contract will be given to you, except the Plymouth one. Should you require any of my services to assist you in the matter I shall be glad to arrange with you, and you will find them very useful. A note addressed to William Rumble, 361, Old Kent-road, will be sure to find me.—Yours, truly, WILLIAM RUMBLE."

Mr. Maxwell added that he afterwards wrote to him as directed. In reply to Sir Thomas Henry, both defendants said they would not put any question.

Inspector Clarke, of the detective force, deposed—In consequence of instructions received from the Admiralty authorities, I watched the proceedings of the prisoners, commencing from Jan. 17 ult. I saw the prisoner Rumble at Mr. Maxwell's office on Jan. 18. He did not perceive me. I saw him go into Mr. Maxwell's room, and I overheard their conversation. Mr. Maxwell observed, "I received your note. Your prophecy is not correct." I did not catch all that was said. Mr. Maxwell said, "How did you find out that?" Rumble replied, "I find out from my friends." That is all I heard that day. I saw Gambier, two days afterwards, for the first time, on Jan. 20. He was alone, having come up to Waterloo station by train at half-past ten. Rumble had been walking up and down the station for some time prior to that. They met, and walked and conversed together. They went quietly from the station to Waterloo Bridge, at the end of which they parted. Gambier went into the Lancaster-place entrance to Somerset House. I saw them on the following day, when they met at the same place. Another gentleman whom I did not know, and have not seen since, was with Rumble, who introduced him to Gambier, and the three walked together over the bridge, and parted at Lancaster-place. I continued to watch them until Feb. 10. On that day I saw them meet again with a second strange gentleman. They crossed the river by the foot-bridge at the Charing-cross railway-bridge, and they stood for a quarter of an hour in conversation in Villiers-street. When they parted I watched Mr. Gambier to the Storekeeper-General's Department, room 15, where his office was. I knew before that that he had an office in Somerset House. On Feb. 2 I had given Mr. Maxwell three £10 notes—No. 17,543, Aug. 20, 1865; No. 24,974, May 9, 1867; and No. 52,030, Sept. 20, 1868. I apprehended the prisoners this morning at Waterloo station, pursuant to the warrant signed by Sir Thomas Henry and now produced. I met them, at half-past ten o'clock, at the station. I said, "Mr. Gambier and Mr. Rumble, I hold a warrant from Sir Thomas Henry, at Bow-street, to arrest you both. I will read the warrant." Mr. Gambier said, "No, not here." I walked some distance, and then read the warrants to them both. They did not say a word. I took them to the station. On the road to the station Gambier said, "What action is taken in a matter of this sort? What course shall you pursue?" I replied, "I will take you before a magistrate to-day." At the station-house I asked them for their papers. Gambier gave me his pocket-book, and Rumble his memorandum-book. I have not yet had time to examine them carefully. I searched both prisoners for papers, but found none on them. The witness further deposed that he was present at the time when Mr. Maxwell gave Rumble the notes, and overheard part of the conversation, but did not see the notes passed.

Mr. Antonio Brady, Registrar of Contracts and Securities, Admiralty, Somerset House, said the prisoner Gambier is a clerk in the Storekeeper's department, at a salary of upwards of £500 a year, having been fourteen or fifteen years in the service. In consequence of directions from the Lords of the Admiralty and from information received from Mr. Maxwell, he gave Clarke a cheque for £30 on Jan. 29, with certain instructions. The cheque was on the Bank of England, where witness keeps his account. In the regular course the letter accepting the contract would go through Gambier's office, but should be posted to Mr. Maxwell. It was marked for post, but had not been posted.

Mr. Henry Childs Hinds, clerk to the Church of England Insurance Office, King-street, Cheapside, stated that a person named James Thomas Gambier, a clerk in the Admiralty, Somerset House, was insured in that office, and had paid his premium on Feb. 9 with the £10-note produced, No. 24,974, May 9, 1867.

Mr. Bristowe said the notes would be traced in detail and fully identified.

At this stage of the proceedings the defendants were remanded.

M. NICOLE, director of the late International Exhibition at Havre, has just communicated to the local journals the results of that enterprise. In his report he shows that the deficiency amounts to 95,000fr., not including the utilisable portions of the aquarium, estimated at 10,000fr. He expresses a hope that this sum will be covered by a supplementary subvention of 50,000fr., which he is about to ask from the municipal administration, and by an aid of about 20,000fr. semi-officially promised by the Ministry of Commerce.

SOME ARTICLES OF JEWELLERY, of the value of £100, which were stolen a few days ago from the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, have been recovered. It appears that the robbery had been committed by two French thieves, who handed over the booty to a woman named Cairns, for a sum of £7 10s. They only got, however, £1 10s. on account, and on afterwards demanding the balance of the sum, Cairns refused to give it. The thieves then left Edinburgh, and sent a letter to the police giving information, which led to the discovery of the jewellery. Cairns is in custody.

EAST OF LONDON MUSEUM.—Last Saturday Earl De Grey and Ripon and Mr. Forster, M.P., as Lord President and Vice-President of the Council for Education, received, at the hands of an influential deputation, the title-deeds of the site for the museum about to be built at the east of London. The land has been conveyed to the Science and Art Department by the promoters of the scheme under the powers of an Act of Parliament obtained for the purpose. It is about four acres and a half in extent. The museum to be erected will be surrounded with buildings; roads will run to it from all directions, and it will be accessible by railway. Mr. Samuel Morley, on behalf of the contributors of the fund, said they were anxious that education rather than amusement should be provided at the museum. Earl De Grey, in reply to the deputation, promised that in dealing with this subject the Government would be guided by the principles already laid down in the minute made when Earl Granville and Mr. Bruce presided at the department of education.

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES.—During the recent heavy gale the life-boats of the National Life-boat Institution have, as usual, been doing good service in saving the crews of different wrecked vessels. The Solicitors and Proctors' life-boat Storm Sprite, at Winchelsea, rescued eight men from the stranded brig Pearl, of Shoreham, which became a total wreck twenty minutes afterwards. The Quiver life-boat at Margate saved the crew of five men of the schooner Friends, which went on the rocks near the jetty. The life-boat was seriously damaged in performing this service, but the Life-boat Society took prompt measures to have her made seaworthy again. The life-boat Bradford and steam tug Ald, of Ramsgate, saved eleven men from the barque Island Chief, which was wrecked on the Goodwin sands; they also brought the disabled schooner Tavistock, of Plymouth, into port. The Polly life-boat at Thurso, N.B., brought ashore seven men from a two distressed vessels. The Yarmouth, Scrabby, and Calster life-boats went out to the assistance of the stranded barque Eliza Caroline, of London. The Lactitia life-boat at Lowestoft assisted to bring the disabled brig Beatrice into harbour. The life-boat Ipswich, at Thorpeness, was also launched, with the view of aiding the steamer Sunderland, of Sunderland, which had gone on the Sizewell bank.

A POLITICAL MULETEER.

THE present crisis in Spain will probably do much to break up many of the old conventional customs of that picturesque country, but at present the revolution has effected very little change either in the costumes or the customs of the people. The muleteer, that favourite character of song and romance, is much the same kind of being as ever: not quite the romantic individual of the drawing-room ballad or the lyrical opera—in fact, generally a sunburnt, dry, lean, opinionated, commonplace old duffer; but a very picturesque fellow in his appearance, and just now a keen debater on the statements of the little black, badly-printed journals that give the latest political news. Our Engraving represents one of these worthies just as he appeared when the sketch was made; his legs thrust down into the panniers on each side; his cloak tossed negligently over his shoulder, and spectacles on nose—fancy a muleteer in spectacles!—deeply absorbed in the latest intelligence, as he jogged away after delivering his load.

PROGRESS OF THE WATERWORKS AT FONTAINEBLEAU.

WE have already noticed the works that are being carried on in the forest of Fontainebleau for the purpose of bringing the water of Lavanne to supply the people of Paris with purer drink than that at present afforded by the Seine. The forest is now crossed in its broadest part by the various constructions necessary to carry out this important enterprise, and the appearance they present is very remarkable, in consequence of the abrupt and eccentric nature of the land. The horizontal line of the tubular channel alternates with aqueducts, for after a few yards of level and easily-penetrated soil, it is necessary to tunnel through rock. Our Engraving represents the grand-maitre aqueduct from Rocher-brûte to Placereaux. The work has been raised as if by art-magic: thirty-five arches are already completed and sixty others are in progress. Stone is altogether excluded from these structures, the material used being the amalgamated *betons* of the Coignet system. The excavators dig out the earth until they find a hard soil for the foundations. Huge pounders or pestles worked by machinery are employed to mix the gravel and cement into a kind of paste, which is kneaded in large wooden moulds, where it acquires the solidity and appearance of stone. The immense structure when it is completed presents an almost monolithic character, and the rapidity of execution is something marvellous.

The excavating operations, and especially the perforation and tunnelling of the rocks, require great care and labour. The wages of the men average from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a day, and unmarried men are chosen in preference to those who have anyone dependent on their exertions. The energetic colony presents rather a savage aspect, and lives in huts built of deal and covered with thatch. When the weather is favourable, the cuisine is conducted in the open air; and there are pretty fair evidences of good living. Fowls, ducks, tame rabbits, and other creatures abound in lively profusion, and pick up their subsistence near the very place where they will probably be consigned to the *pot-au-feu* or the spit at no very distant period. The rugged and picturesque camp and the busy scenes to be witnessed make the place well worth a visit. The canteen of Brousset, represented by our Illustration, is particularly remarkable during meal times, when forty or fifty sturdy workmen take their places at the tables, where gaiety and good appetite seem to be a remedy for fatigue. There is plenty—almost profusion—and the wine seems to be of good quality; for probably the French, like the English, excavator is no bad judge of what constitutes full diet.



A POLITICAL MULETEER IN SPAIN.

UNDER THE CITY.

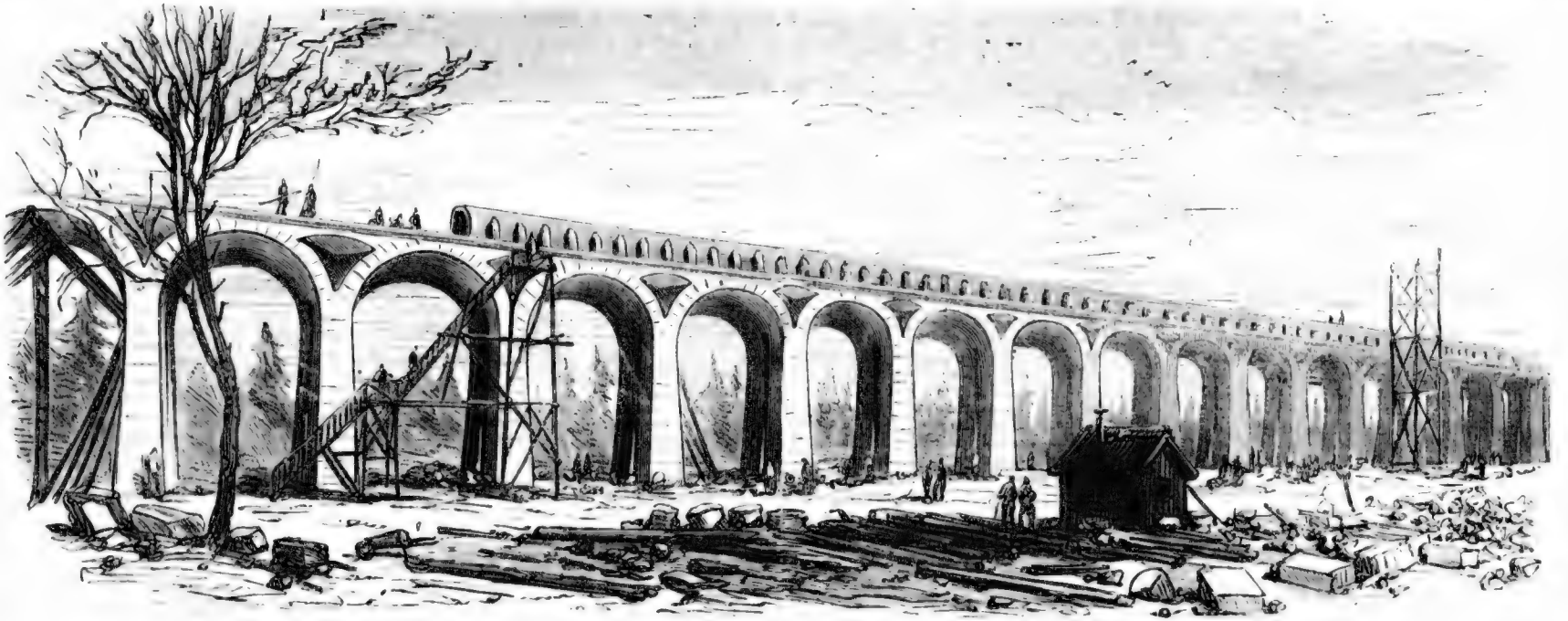
WHENEVER the pavement opens and strong men disappear below it or emerge from it like demons in a pantomime, there will be always found an eager knot of lookers-on. Let the street be empty as it will, you have but to open the trapdoor of a sewer to assemble round it the nucleus of a London crowd. There is a fascination which is both mysterious and horrible about the disappearance of the workmen, tools in hand, upon whom the practicable paving-stone shuts down with a snap which seems to speak of burying alive. You wonder where they wander to, what they do, and whether it is painful. What happens below ground? How long do they remain there? Will they ever come up again? What are their signals of distress; and by what other means do they communicate with the world above? Such questions as these have occurred to most London readers; and when, a few mornings ago, a select party descended a sewer trap in Gresham-street, E.C., many of these queries were repeated audibly, and not encouragingly, by the men and boys who clustered near. "Oh my! Bill; don't he look pale, neither?" were the last words heard from above as we clambered down the iron holdfasts at the side of the Gresham-

street shaft, a perfect chorus of derisive laughter being cut short by the bang and snap of the descending trap-door which shut us off from the upper earth.

Through the kindness of Mr. Haywood, the engineer to the City, we had been handed over to an experienced and practical guide, who, with a staff of workmen, proceeded to introduce us to the sewers of London. Before visiting these places, you must dress for the part. Long thick woollen stockings drawn up over the trousers to the hips are covered by equally long greased boots, with heavy turn-over flaps, like those worn by the bold smugglers of the stage. To a stout guernsey shirt is added a smock or pinafore of blue flannel, fastened at the waist by a leathern belt. A fantail hat, like that favoured by the dustman of the period, together with a pair of thick woollen gloves, completed the costume of the two strangers, who, with a select party of professionals, came out of Guildhall and drew themselves up by the trap-door in Gresham-street, to the intense delight of the loungers at the public-house opposite. A descent of twelve or fourteen feet, hand over hand, by and on the iron rings already mentioned, and we are at what looks like the entrance to a wine-cellar. Candles stuck into the ends of long sticks, and flaring and spluttering untidily while carried in the hand, much as they are in tasting-vaults, strengthened the vinous analogy; and we proceeded down some steps and through a narrow passage with a vague impression that we should shortly come upon bins and vats, and be called upon to express an opinion critically upon vintages. A few steps further and the use of the stout, strong boots is apparent; for we are ankle-deep in a black stream, and are, in fact, in the middle of the Gresham-street main sewer. A bricked tunnel, with ample side-space for one person to walk in, and in which you can stand nearly erect; a tunnel which is well ventilated, and where the bottom current is sufficiently strong to carry all before it.

Such is the sewer. We walk up it in Indian file as far as the General Post Office, first exploring a black hole at the side which necessitated stooping almost double. Similar holes to the right and left, each contributing their subsidiary streams, represent the various side thoroughfares. "That's Aldermanbury," "There's Wood-street," remarks our guide, as we pass the entrances to the various tunnels representing those places; while at intervals, and when we are near openings, light and sounds come down to us from above, fragments of conversation, the hoarse rumble of wheels, and the busy tramp of footsteps, all telling of the active city life beneath which we were burrowing. It is dark and damp, but not more unpleasant than might fairly be expected. Walls and roofs and sides are moist and slimy, and your footing is often soft and slippery—that is all. Our chief guide has a strong faith in the wholesomeness of sewers. That there is nothing unhealthy in their smell and nothing disagreeable in their interior, that the people employed in them enjoy good health, and that any objection strangers may raise must be put down to fastidiousness or inexperience, is with him a strong article of faith.

Mr. John Hollingshead, in the amusing and instructive volume, "Underground London," which he published some years ago, records his travels in the sewers from St. John's-wood Chapel to Piccadilly, and thence under Buckingham Palace to the Thames. Our walk was less extensive. We took the air close by St. Martin's-le-Grand, and went below again at Newgate Market, where we visited a large underground tank, from which water is let down four different sewers, cleansing and purifying all before it. It was quite empty during our sojourn, and the machinery for working it—iron doors opening by huge screws worked from above—were easily and comfortably examined. We saw no rats, and learnt that



THE WATERWORKS AT FONTAINEBLEAU: PRESENT APPEARANCE OF THE VIADUCT.

the drain-pipes used now have considerably diminished their numbers. It being no part of our present purpose to describe what has been often told already—namely, the system upon which the sewage of London is carried away—we shall confine ourselves to saying simply that we were taken under Farringdon-street West. Here the Fleet ditch was running in two swift black streams, almost below the footway on each side, some 3*ft.* 6*in.* deep, and with so strong a current that we were assured it would be impossible to save the life of anyone who stepped or slipped into them. These foul streams recalled the ancient Styx, and made one hold back with something like a shudder. So far as an unprofessional eye could judge, this great sewer—it was converted into a canal after the Great Fire, but the speculation was unprofitable, and it sank into a common sewer again—was performing its work very completely, and this remark applies to all the elaborate subways we visited. The City Commission of Sewers is scarcely of age, it having obtained its Sanitary Act in 1848, such Act having come into operation on Jan. 1 in the following year. Mr. Haywood's reports on the ventilation of sewers, on the progress of measures for the interception of the sewage, on the results of

the experiment of applying charcoal to sewer ventilators, and of the gauging of the sewers discharging within the limits of the City, have all been laid before the commission since; and the present high state of efficiency is not maintained without unceasing watchfulness and constant care. In the course of our inspection, we saw more flushing-gates, artificial falls of water, traps, and locks; but we were below ground, not to examine or to report on these, but to realise the strange fact that there is a complete city under the City, and that every street and lane has its counterpart below, up which you may wander, while shut out from the world above, as if you were temporarily in your grave. Men have been lost in the sewers—not workmen, but fellows who have stolen down the man-holes for predatory purposes, and who have been as grievously disappointed as the people who came to London fancying it paved with gold. There is something almost awful in the thought of wandering alone dumbfounded and despairing in these vast solitudes, hearing the sounds of human life above you and failing to make your agony heard. But to visit sewers under such guidance as we enjoyed is simply to attain a novel experience, and to come to the surface besmirched and dirty, but without accident or risk. The strangest part of the experience was the extent and complete-

ness of the tomb-like labyrinths, and the impression they left behind of a silent, soulless city, unlit, untenanted, unused—a city content to perform its useful work in complete obscurity, and seldom thought of or remembered by the flaring, garish duplicate it serves. Mr. Haywood's elaborate map of the City sewers is, in fact, a map of the City itself; but obvious as their size and comprehensiveness seem after a moment's thought, it needs a personal exploration to bring their characteristics home.—*Daily News.*

CONSTANTINE VOLOUDAKI,

PRESIDENT OF THE CRETAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

CRETAN insurrections seem to partake of the nature of the Vendetta. As soon as the children of the insurgents are old enough to bear arms they are ready to carry on the struggle, so that each generation witnesses a continuance of the condition which keeps the whole island in poverty and leaves life at such an uncertain tenure. This week we publish the portrait of a man who, although his history closely resembles that of most of his compatriots, is just now a remarkable personage from having borne a very prominent part in the troubles that Europe is engaged in the endeavour to

terminate. Constantine Voloudaki is president of the Provisional Government of the island, and has just been elected as Envoy Extraordinary to America. His father, who was a warrior of Sphakia, fell in the struggle of his countrymen in 1821, when he died in defending his home from the invasion of the Turks who entered the village of Vouva in the night and slaughtered the men. The young wife of Paul Voloudaki, however, escaped, with some other women, into the mountains, where, with her infant at her bosom, she wandered about in great misery for several days. Her sufferings terminated in death, and the child was preserved by her cousin, who carried it to a village, where her father adopted and brought it up. This child was Constantine Voloudaki, and his preserver is still living, and has recently helped to succour the patriotic forces, and Voloudaki himself, in the recent insurrection. An opportunity occurred in 1841 for the young Cretan to distinguish himself, when, by the treaty of the quadruple alliance, the island passed from the Egyptian to the Turkish rule. In the insurrection that ensued he played a prominent part, and fought on the old battle-ground of Sphakia. At the age of twenty-three he married a young girl of the province of Apocorana, where he lived until three years ago, just before the present outbreak, as a thriving farmer, with cattle, olives, and vines on his estate. His property was entirely destroyed by the Turks; and his family, consisting of two sons and four daughters (the youngest of whom is nine years old), are now in refuge at Athens. Although Voloudaki is scarcely forty-eight years of age, he appears much older, the hardships and fierce contests of his life having left their marks on a face and figure peculiarly majestic and remarkable. He was a great attraction in Paris, no less from the grace of his manners than from the history of the part he had borne in the rebellion. At the commencement of the present struggle he was chosen as President by the Assembly at Cana, which met for the purpose of demanding from the Sultan a reformed Government; and since that time he has been one of the foremost figures in the conflicts that have marked the course of the insurrection.

MR. EDWARDS, THE OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE.

MONDAY was the day appointed for Mr. Edwards, the official assignee, to render his answers to certain questions put to him in court by the Commissioner, by direction of the Lord Chancellor, on Thursday, the 4th inst. The court was most inconveniently crowded from an early hour. Mr. Edwards came into court shortly after eleven o'clock (attended by his solicitor, Mr. Albert Turner), and took his usual place within the rails. He was shortly followed by Mr. Commissioner Holroyd.

His Honour, on taking his seat, said, "This matter stood adjourned from the 4th of this month, and to-day was appointed for the purpose of Mr. Edwards giving his explanations and answers to the questions put by the Lord Chancellor in reference to the examinations before the Lord Mayor and Sir Thomas Gabriel in the matter of Overend, Gurney, and Co. Mr. Edwards will now proceed to give his explanations."

Mr. Edwards—I will now, with your Honour's permission, proceed to give the explanations required of me with reference to my examination at the Mansion House on the 29th and 30th ult. Before answering the various points suggested, it will be necessary to allude shortly to the circumstances under which I was called upon to give evidence on that occasion. The matters on which I was examined had occurred several years ago; they ranged over several years, and involved transactions of great magnitude, with reference to which I had no opportunity—and have not had—of consulting vouchers except in one case in 1864. Moreover, I only received the summons to attend the court one day before the examination, without any intimation of the matters on which I was to be examined, or a request to bring any papers. I did not then, and do not now, know the points on which I was to be examined. Mr. Edwards then remarked on the ill health from which he had suffered, and said there could be no doubt that his memory had been considerably affected. He complained of the irrelevant and insulting questions which had been put to



CONSTANTINE VOLOUDAKI, PRESIDENT OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CRETE.

him, and said that had the object been to elicit the truth he ought to have been assisted by the production of documents in possession of the prosecution. All the payments made by him as commissioner had been made with the full sanction of Overend, Gurney, and Co., and in most cases had been fixed by them. The Lord Mayor asked if M. Xenos had given him a yacht. This showed that it was a matter of public notoriety, and, if so, must have been known to the members of Overend, Gurney, and Co. He protested that he had not been fairly examined, and appealed to the Commissioner, the Lord Chancellor, and the public for justice. He would now refer to the questions of the Lord Chancellor. He denied that the report in the newspapers of the proceedings at the Mansion House was such a one as he ought to be judged by. He had become a member of the board of the Atlantic Royal Mail Company at the request of Overend, Gurney, and Co., and the weekly board meetings were altered to Wednesday to suit his convenience, that being a day on which he was not engaged in court. This was in 1864, and he could prove from correspondence that this step was not disapproved by the Lord Chancellor. (Here Mr. Turner read some letters.) He had been called on for explanation at that time by the Lord Chancellor; that explanation was rendered; and he received no reprimand. The rule regulating the duties of official assignees had been directed against their using their offices for the general business of accountants. He had not done so, but had partially discharged his duties as official assignee; and his employment by Overend, Gurney, and Co., was well known to the public generally. In 1859, when he undertook those duties,

it was expressly stipulated that his attendance should only be required after office hours, and he only attended after four o'clock. As to the receipt of £10,000, he denied that he had received it as commission from the Millwall Iron Shipbuilding Company. In 1859 Mr. Henry Gurney, then practically the head of the firm, had asked him to assist them in the transaction of business not connected with bill-broking. At that time a change in the bankruptcy law was contemplated, and he felt that he ought to do something to increase his income. He consented to undertake the business referred to after office hours, but no definite arrangement was made as to his remuneration, and he was certain it was contemplated by Mr. Gurney that he should receive a commission from the parties with whom the business was transacted. The payment of £500 a year from M. Xenos was known to the firm of Overend, Gurney, and Co. That arrangement was continued for about six months. The commission which he received from Mr. Scott Russell was arranged by Overend, Gurney, and Co., not by himself. The amounts as they became due, were paid on certificates, and his checks for the amount of commission were handed over to Messrs. Overend, Gurney, and Co. When Overend, Gurney, and Co. paid him £5000 for his services, no objection was made to those commissions, though they must have known that he received them. There was nothing improper or irregular in his receiving those commissions. But he denied that he had received any from the Millwall Iron Shipbuilding Company. The Lord Chancellor's letter in 1861 he understood to refer to the part he had taken in Mr. Pearson's matter; and he contended that he was fully justified in what he had then done. His connection with Overend, Gurney, and Co. was well known in the City, and was, indeed, matter of public notoriety. After the letter he addressed to the Lord Chancellor in 1861, he had been led to suppose that he had done nothing that was disapproved of. In 1862 there was some discussion amongst the members of the firm of Overend, Gurney, and Co., to which he was not a party, and it was suggested that he should become a partner, but Mr. N. F. Chapman recommended him not to do so. Mr. Birkbeck having made injurious charges against him, he required that those should be withdrawn, as affecting his usefulness to the house, and also his character and prospects, by the unexplained severance. This led to discussion, and he then considered that he had been dismissed. The amount of remuneration to which he was entitled was considered by the company as a fair subject of discussion and arbitration. (A letter from the firm was here read.) Mr. Edwards then referred to a copy of a memorial

which he had recently received from the Leeds Chamber of Commerce, allegations in which he proceeded to answer. He claimed to have transacted the business of cases in bankruptcy in the fullest and most satisfactory manner, and denied that he had received fees in cases where he had acted as arbitrator. He referred especially to the arbitration in Lascaridi's case, to which Overend, Gurney, and Co. were not parties, except as creditors. He had only received from Mr. Lascaridi a commission on a loan obtained long before from Overend, Gurney, and Co. From Mr. Lever he had received a commission of £2500 for assisting in procuring the charter for his steam-ships. He might have erred in judgment; but what he had done had been done fairly, openly, and honestly. For twenty years he had filled an important post without a shadow of complaint against him for neglect of duty in the matters intrusted to his charge. He denied that his office of official assignee had been made subservient to the interests of Overend, Gurney, and Co.; for it was their practice to keep all cases in which they were concerned out of bankruptcy. He had been blamed for the loan of £5000 to Mr. N. Chapman, who had been a friend of his for twenty years; and the money which he lent him had been paid for hard services. He had also been charged with causing all the losses of the firm. The principal was the loss of £600,000 upon the Atlantic Royal Mail Company, to which Overend, Gurney, and Co. at first advanced £200,000, and further sums to complete and equip their ships. But all those advances had been made before his connection with the house of Overend, Gurney, and Co., and he had only followed the instructions given him in supporting their policy



THE FONTAINEBLEAU WATERWORKS: THE WORKMEN'S CANTEN.

(Here several letters were read.) After this, how could he be charged with causing the losses? What loss had he caused? He had only to deal with locked up accounts, and was told that the firm could meet these losses (whether they could or not he had no means of knowing), and that all he had to do was to keep the parties out of bankruptcy. Looking at the effect on his future prospects of the sudden severance of his connection with Overend, Gurney, and Co., he contended that he was justified in asking for a remuneration of £20,000, and even more, taking into account the prospect that had been held out to him of a partnership. He had given the utmost labour and attention to the matters committed to his charge, as his failing health bore witness; and it was most unjust to allege that he had done nothing for what he had received. Referring again to the present of a yacht of 25 tons from Mr. Xenos, Mr. Edwards asserted that the fact was known to Overend, Gurney, and Co., as were the other presents of commissions he had received. He had now shown that all the charges against him were unfounded and some absurd; and, having regard to the momentous nature of the inquiry, he threw himself upon the justice of the Court and the Lord Chancellor.

The Commissioner said the next step would be to transmit the explanations and answers which Mr. Edwards had given to the Lord Chancellor, and the matter would then abide his order.

The Lord Chancellor has, by statute, power to remove an official assignee for good cause shown; and in reference to the case now attracting so much attention, the following General Order, No. 122 of the General Orders issued Oct. 19, 1852, may be given:—"No official assignee shall, either directly or indirectly, carry on any trade or business, or hold or be engaged in any office or employment other than his office of official assignee."

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

The following was the programme at the last of the Monday Popular Concerts:—

PART I.			
Quartet in E minor, Op. 59, No. 2	.. ..	.. ..	Beethoven.
Air, "Salve dimora casta e pura" ("Faust")	.. ..	.. ..	Gounod.
Sonata in A flat, Op. 110, pianoforte	.. ..	.. ..	Beethoven.
PART II.			
Trio in B flat (posthumous), violin, viola, and violoncello	.. ..	.. ..	Schubert.
Song, "Thou whom I vowed to love"	.. ..	.. ..	Schubert.
Sonata in A major, pianoforte and violin	.. ..	.. ..	Mozart.

On this occasion, then, the great attraction was Schubert's trio—a work discovered by Mr. George Grove, at Vienna, in 1867, among several other pieces by the same composer, which, but for Mr. Grove's exertion, would probably have been lost to the world. The trio was played to perfection by Herr Joachim, Mr. Blagrove, and Signor Piatti, and was received with such expressions of delight that it will doubtless soon be repeated. The pianist of the evening was Mr. Charles Hallé, who played Beethoven's great sonata with all the precision and refinement by which his execution is characterised. Mozart's beautiful duet sonata, in the hands of Messrs. Joachim and Hallé, was sure to receive justice. It was admirably rendered and warmly applauded. Mr. Vernon Rigby was the vocalist; Mr. Benedict the conductor.

The National Choral Society, under the direction of Mr. Martin, performed Mendelssohn's "Elijah" on Wednesday night at Exeter Hall, to a crowded audience. The arduous music of the prophet was fairly sung by Mr. Lander, the new basso; but he evidently wants more training to enable him to give due effect to the part. Miss Arabella Smyth gave the principal soprano music exceedingly well, as did Miss Franklin the contralto part, notwithstanding that she was suffering from a cold. Mr. George Perren sang as he always does, and gained much applause for his rendering of the air "If with all your hearts." The trio of angels, "Lift thine eyes" (sung by the ladies above mentioned and Madame R. Barrett), pleased so much that an encore interrupted the chorus that followed, which was suspended for its repetition. The choruses were generally well sung, but especial mention may be made of the "Baal Chorus," "Thanks be to God," and "Be not afraid." In this performance Mr. Martin reverted to the pitch in use before the recent agitation on this subject.

A troupe of vocalists, called the "Royal Tyrolean Singers," from the Zillerthal, are to give a series of eight day performances in the St. James's (Christy's) Hall on the afternoons of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, Feb. 22, 23, 25, and 26; and also on the afternoons of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, March 1, 2, 4, and 5.

It is now decided (says the *Morning Post* of Thursday) that there will be only one opera company in London during the ensuing season. Mr. Costa having resigned his office as conductor of the opera at Covent Garden, the probability is that the two companies will be united.

From Paris, at this moment the great musical centre of Europe, we hear that great preparations are being made for the production of M. Gounod's "Faust" at the Imperial Opera. Among the new scenes built up and painted for this the third version (or rather third edition) of "Faust" that M. Gounod will have given to the world, the most magnificent is said to be a representation of the palace of Mephistopheles. In front of this scene, a divertissement, in which "the goddesses of antiquity" are presented to Faust's admiring gaze, will be performed. The music of this divertissement is, of course, from the pen of M. Gounod, who is understood to have made several additions to his score.

Rossini's unpublished mass is to be produced, at the Théâtre Italien, at the end of February or the beginning of March. M. Strakosch is superintending the production of the work, and has succeeded in inducing Madame Alboni, who, it was thought, would never be heard again in public, to undertake the contralto part. In the course of the season the "Messe Solennelle" will be performed in London—also, we believe, under M. Strakosch's direction.

All the journals in France, and all the musical journals in England, have told how Auber, being at a ball in the Hôtel de Ville the night he entered his eighty-eighth year, received from Strauss, the conductor of the orchestra, a sad compliment, but the only one, probably, that the conductor of a quadrille band could pay. Strauss reminded the musicians that they had now to celebrate Auber's birthday, and thereupon had the parts got out of a number of quadrilles founded on airs extracted (as a clumsy dentist might extract teeth—breaking them to pieces here and there) from "Masaniello," which dates from 1829, and from "Un Premier Jour de Bonheur," which is still the latest and most attractive novelty at the Opéra Comique. Strauss did his best, no doubt; and Auber, no doubt, responded in some manner to the attention shown him. But what must he have suffered on his music being presented to him in an utterly mutilated shape—cut up into so many even lengths to suit the figures of a quadrille? What a compliment it would be to a poet, meeting him at a ball, the eve of his birthday, to offer him bonbons in which couplets, cut without mercy from the heart of his best works, served as mottoes! This would be something like the equivalent, however, of the musical homage paid to Auber at the ball in the Hôtel de Ville. It is satisfactory, in the meanwhile, to know that Auber has not taken the matter much to heart. He is said to be engaged upon another opera, a work in three acts, which occupies all his time, and which will soon be ready for production.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—The works for the completion of the new galleries for the Royal Academy in Piccadilly are progressing rapidly, and there is good reason to infer that the stipulation requiring them to be finished for the May exhibition will be complied with. The walls of the galleries are in course of being painted a deep maroon red. The pictures are not to be hung at so great a height as in the old galleries. The size of the catalogue is to remain unchanged, and will include a plan of the galleries, so as to facilitate reference. It still remains undecided whether or not to permit the sale of refreshments within the exhibition. The British Museum and South Kensington Museum have admitted refreshments, as necessities of human life.

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.

THE gallery devoted to the exhibition of pictures by female artists, in Conduit-street, has received but scant courtesy at the hands of some of the critics. It seems to have been thought desirable, in some instances, to speak of it with a kind of playful toleration, as though very little need be expected from the efforts of ladies who have adopted painting as a profession, and there is rather too obvious an assumption of superiority in the tone of those commentators who give a smiling acknowledgment of the success of the exhibitors rather because they belong to the gentler sex than in consequence of what they have really achieved in the short period during which the institution has been established. We are of opinion, however, that the enterprising artists who have determined to pursue one of the few high vocations which custom has permitted to them would prefer that their productions should be judged simply on their own merits and in accordance with the ordinary critical canon, than that they should be regarded as exceptional and subject to such allowances. There must always be taken into account a feminine element which almost necessarily pervades the subjects and their treatment; but this in itself should be merely an added beauty, a fresh significance, and not an accident which needs either palliation or excuse.

In making the tour of the gallery, a visitor will doubtless see many feeble and imperfect examples of work; but there are many others which give ample promise of a school of art in the highest degree satisfactory, and there are evidences of a painstaking and loving endeavour to realise a worthy position which, even in some of the less remarkable pictures, is highly suggestive of future attainments.

It will not be surprising that the fruit and flower pieces should be abundant, nor that they should display the greatest amount of talent. It is seldom that so many admirable pictures of this kind are to be seen in one exhibition. One of the most striking on entering the room is No. 15, by Miss Fitzjames; and a remarkable example of the art which can make an actual picture out of a study of botany may be found in No. 27, by Madame Bodichon, whose "Studies of Aloes" has been renamed "Weeds in my Garden, Algiers." Very lovely are Miss Emma Walter's "Summer Flowers" and "Flowers Just Gathered," the latter fresh, as it were, with the very moisture of the air. Miss Fanny Vallance gives some admirable studies of field flowers, rendered with exquisite care and finish; and, in looking at Miss Mary Taylor's "Autumn Fruit," one can almost catch the faint odour of the peaches. "Flowers and Fruit," by Mrs. Harrison, are among the most charming pictures in the gallery.

Of landscape subjects Mrs. S. S. Warren sends some fine examples of colour in her rustic scenes, "The Village Churchyard Parley" (126) being a good example of her mellow tone, and "Eton College, from Clewer" (86), showing how much she has studied that kind of subdued effect which is to be obtained only by close observation of nature. "Bellevor, Dartmoor," (26), by Miss Seymour, is a good picture, with promise of force and bold handling; and Miss Margaret Rayner has sent two remarkably vigorous pictures of waterfalls, which cannot fail to arrest attention. Mrs. Shephard's sketch of "Annesley Bay at Sunset" is interesting from its connection with the recent Abyssinian exhibition; but it is also a very charming little memento.

Mrs. Stewart Smith's two pictures, "Cardinal Beaton's House, from High School Wynd, Edinburgh" (93), and "Head of the West Bow, Lawnmarket, by Moonlight" (102) are very admirable, the latter especially, in its capital management of the light, not only of the moon, but in the effect of the street lamps. It is a picture which many middle-aged Scotchmen might covet to hang up in some favourite corner of a study. A very pretty river scene is "Miss Wilkes's 'Old Bridge at Hampton Court'" (130), and Miss A. Smith sends a good picture, "On the Road to Snowdon" (153). A pretty bit of finish and colour is Lady Danbar's "Bastia, Corsica" (176); and Miss Lightfoot's sketch "On the Beach, Brighton" (200), has a true touch in it that arrests attention.

It is not so easy to praise most of the figure-subjects, and whether it be for the want of study from the life, or from other causes, many of them are very inferior both in drawing and execution. There are exceptions, however, and some of the smaller domestic "bits" are remarkably good and very suggestive—little pictures which one would like to carry away, there and then, and find a place for in the family room. Among these are Mrs. Backhouse's "Father's Dinner" (58)—a blithe, rosy-cheeked little lass carrying the mid-day meal to her father, who is at work somewhere away from home. This and "Will you Have some Ale?" (101) are both capital for their natural rendering and freshness.

Miss Julia Pocock, a student at the School of Art, Queen-square, sends some very good studies of heads, remarkable among some other pictures, for their drawing and vigour; and Miss Adelaide Burgess's "Boulogne Fish-Girls" (48) are a capital study made into an attractive subject. There is, however, in most of the faces an absence of the art of rendering flesh tint and texture; this is to be noticed in many instances where in other respects the pictures are admirable, and we hope this hint will not be taken amiss by our fair friends.

Of Miss Louise Rayner's "Views in Chester" (202 to 215) we can only say that they are worth a visit to the gallery from anybody who loves the quaint picturesque old town; they have evidently been themselves a labour of love, and are full of beauties and patient artistic work. The screens No. 1 and No. 2 are full of pretty little pictures, some of which are very beautiful indeed, but difficult to classify in a notice like the present, although they are perhaps the most attractive part of the exhibition. We cannot help thinking it a mistake, however, to place Miss G. Bowers's "Hunting Studies" there, or indeed in the exhibition at all. They are mere scratchy sketches, and, whatever may be their merits, it is only from a very great artist indeed that we can receive the crude suggestions of pictures. What was acceptable in the case of Leech is not so acceptable in the case of the lady who has taken up hunting subjects with a good deal less than the power of the great illustrator. Screen No. 3 is devoted to Mrs. Mair's views in the Engadine, Switzerland, a series of pictures among which are some of great beauty and fidelity to nature. "The Old Spanish Castle at Chiavenna and the Arrival of the Diligence," "Looking Back on Switzerland from the Bernina Pass," and "A Peep into Italy from the Top of the Bernina Pass," are admirable. Of the oil paintings, as a collection, very little need be said. "Fruit Ready to go to the Banquet" is a tempting picture, and Mrs. Stannard's "Fruit" (385) is simply lovely. A capital "Head of an Old Woman," by Miss Harriette Seymour (386), and a pretty little picture—one of the most attractive, indeed, of the whole series—"What Became of Father's Dinner" (463), by Mrs. F. Lee Bridell, must close our present notice of a very encouraging exhibition.

LONDON AND BRIGHTON RAILWAY.—The policy of high fares and diminished traffic has notably broken down on the Brighton Railway Company's line. This was admitted by Mr. Laing at the recent half-yearly meeting; but now the truth is acknowledged in the most practical manner. Mr. Laing has informed the Mayor of Brighton that a large and general reduction of return fares between the two termini of the main line is to take effect in the spring. The reduced scale for return tickets between London and Brighton, or Brighton and London, will be

First-class Express	.. ..	17s. 6d.
Second-class Express, and	.. ..	14s. 0d.
First-class Ordinary	.. ..	10s. 0d.
Second-class Ordinary	.. ..	6s. 6d.
Third-class Ordinary	.. ..	4s. 0d.

These fares are within a fraction of those which were established by the reduction of 1863. They are to rule from April 1, but a month before that date the accommodation of the line is to be extended by the running of additional mid-day and afternoon third-class trains. A further reduction is also promised in the return fares between Brighton and some of the stations nearest to it. We are glad to see that the Brighton directors are not so foolish as to stand by a policy that has been proved vain for the mere reason that it is their own. They may depend on it they have more to gain by meeting the public convenience than by multiplying obstacles to travelling.

THE WIRE TRAMWAY SYSTEM.

LAST Saturday a party of engineers and representatives of the press started from the St. Pancras station by the ten o'clock Midland express for Leicester to see this novel system of wire-rope transport practically at work over a length of three miles, between the Markfield granite, or more properly syenite, quarry and the railway station at Bardon. The run by the train (102 miles) is made without stopping in two hours and a half, and the distance from the town to the wire rope is about eight miles by carriage, so that a visit can be comfortably made, with plenty of time for inspection, within the day. Transport of loads by rope and pulley is a very old invention—if not literally, as in common parlance, "as old as the hills," certainly almost as old as the first efforts of digging anything valuable out of them. But, nevertheless, it does not seem to have occurred to men to suspend or support a line of rope on posts, with bearing-pulleys, and, by driving the rope round drums at both ends, to produce at once a regular line of road and a locomotive power for the transport of boxes and cars. This, however, is what Mr. Hodgson, C.E., has now done, simply, cheaply, and effectively, and in so doing has added, in our estimation, a very important auxiliary to the railway system, especially in colonial, mountainous, and slightly populated districts. Indeed, a number of cases exist in this country itself, in which the system may be applied with very great advantage. The plan now at work near Leices or has been established in connection with the granite works of Messrs. Ellis, Everard, and Co., with a view to convenience as well as to a large saving in transport. Their quarries have to compete in the London market not only with Guernsey and Aberdeen, but locally they have to carry on a competition with an important quarry somewhat nearer to the railway line; and although they may have the advantage in the superiority of stone, they have the disadvantage in cartage. The line of endless wire rope which Mr. Hodgson has just accomplished for them is supported on a series of grooved pulley wheels, supported in pairs by stout posts let into the ground: ordinarily these posts are about fifty yards apart, but the distances may be much further, and in one case on this very line, to accommodate the wishes of one of the landed proprietors, there is a span of 600 ft. At one end of the three-mile distance the endless rope passes round a Fowler's clip drum worked by an ordinary portable engine; at the other end it passes round a plain cylinder. An engine of 16-horse power, working at 10 lb. of steam, was able to drive the rope at a speed of four miles an hour. The rope employed is 1½ in. in circumference, or, as ordinarily known, a half-inch rope; and its strength is amply sufficient to allow of carrying 6 tons at a time properly distributed over its length, and driven at a rate of five or six miles an hour. The boxes carried on this line are about 2 ft. long from 1 ft. to 18 in. broad, the inner side sloping away outwards from bottom to top, and 6 in. deep. Their load of stone is 1 cwt. each; and taking the number of supporting posts as 120, some 240 boxes can be on the line continuously in constant motion. The carrying power thus becomes, at this five-mile speed of the rope, 10 tons per hour—driven at the destination. The wire line being endless, the empties are returned to the loading station or quarry at the same rate as they are sent away. The boxes are not clipped or fastened on to the rope, but simply adhere to it, in this way:—From the box itself two upright stanchions, about a yard long, pass upwards, and are bent over at top for about a foot of their length, and attached at their extremities to a short, solid, square block of wood passing between them, and arched out beneath to lie upon the rope. Sheet-iron flanges are also put along the sides of this block to make its retention on the rope the more secure. The box hangs thus on the rope, with its centre of gravity always under the line; and its adhesion to the rope is sufficient to ensure its travelling up to the bearing-pulleys, when there are even very large amounts of slack in the rope. The carrying power can be of course increased by increasing the dimensions of the rope; in fact, it can be varied to any extent to suit particular requirements from 10 tons to 1000 tons per day. Where the traffic is heavy it is proposed to use a double line—a stout one permanently stretched to bear the load, and a lighter endless rope for hauling.

The manifest advantage of this system is its economy and practical application in districts and under circumstances where railways could not be remunerative on account of the limited amount of traffic and the great cost of the engineering works of the road. By the wire tramway system any country, however rugged, can be crossed with a line capable by its continuous and evenly-distributed labour of accomplishing a large total result per day, and without involving much more engineering work than a line of electric telegraph, the traffic line being constructed on posts or pillars, without bridges, tunnels, embankments, or masonry. As an example of the saving to be effected by this system, we may instance the circumstances of a mine at the Cape of Good Hope, a consideration of the enormous difficulty and cost of transport of the produce of which first turned Mr. Hodgson's attention to the present subject. Here we have 10,000 tons of ore output, the cost of which for transport to the market and of cals brought back to the mine is £50,000, the distance of carriage being over eighty miles, and mainly by mules and bullock-waggons. Moreover, the time occupied is so long that, reckoning the value of the ore, the expenses of labour in getting it, and the maintenance and expenses of carriage, there is said to be as much as £120,000 capital sunk before any realisation of the outlay is obtained. It is easy to see how a wire rope line, divided into manageable lengths and worked by connecting drums and stationary engines, would be a most profitable as well as most convenient carrier; the boxes being able to pass the sharpest curves by running on wheels over short lengths of small rails, and taking the wire rope again by running on to it when the curve was passed. The boxes, or cars, are at first run on to the rope in the same way from the quarry or loading station; and they are also tipped there of their contents, and continue their journey back empty for reloading without interruption. Even on so small a scale as the wire line at Leicester, the system has already received favourable consideration from the local public authorities, who regard the saving of wear and tear to the highways and roads as not less than £100 a year. The granite traffic from the Markfield quarries involves a capital outlay in carts and horses of upwards of £2000. The cost of the wire rope and its machinery is £1200, and the work it is capable of performing is obviously far more constant and economic than living horse power.

The system is being commercially developed by a private company in the city, under the title of The Wire Tramway Company.

A MEETING OF METROPOLITAN RATEPAYERS was held on Monday to protest against the system, initiated by Mr. Gathorne Hardy's Act of 1867, of calling upon parishes to build asylums for the sick poor in the suburbs. It was resolved that a deputation should wait upon Mr. Goechen, urging that no steps be taken to carry out the new Act until the whole system of poor-law relief can be reconsidered by Parliament.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS IN ITALY in 1866 numbered 31,117, with 1,217,870 pupils; in 1864 there were 31,804 schools, with 1,178,743 pupils. The number of children under fourteen years of age is 7,750,000. In France and Belgium one out of nine of the population goes to school. In Prussia one out of six, in the Netherlands one out of eight, in Spain one out of thirteen, and in Italy one out of eighteen.

ARMY REFORM.—At the Society of Arts, on Wednesday evening, Mr. Cole, C.B., read a paper on Army Reform. He advocated a complete change in our military system, in order that it might be associated with the interests and occupations of the whole people. Mr. Cole maintained that the cost of the Indian army ought not to be borne by the taxpayers of Great Britain. He further contended that military drill should form part of our national education.

THE FIRST BATCH OF SIXTY-ONE RIFLED GUNS, converted, on the Palliser principle, from smooth-bore cast-iron guns, has been received at Woolwich. The guns have all been proved by the Royal gun factories, and sixty have been passed into the service, one gun being rejected for defective manufacture. A second batch of thirty guns is on the road from the Elswick Ordnance Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne. It is stated that Government have decided to convert a considerable number of cast-iron guns, next year, in the gun-factories at Woolwich.

POLICE.

AN ANCIENT BURGLAR.—At Southwark, on Tuesday, George Roberts, aged sixty-five, was charged, on remand, with being found in the area of No. 55, Trinity-square, Borough, for the purpose of committing a felony. It appeared from the evidence of Police-constable 83 M that, about five o'clock on the morning of Monday, the 8th inst., he was on duty in Trinity-square, and on passing No. 55 he heard a noise in the area. On looking down he saw the prisoner near the window with something in his hand. Witness immediately went down the area to see if there was anything else concealed there, and he found the old knife produced lying near the window. With it the prisoner would have been enabled to force back the window-fastenings and open desks and drawers. Mr. George Edwards said he resided at 55, Trinity-square; and at four o'clock on the morning in question he was roused up by the preceding witness, when he descended and found the prisoner in the area. He had no right on his premises. When questioned, he said he did not know how he got there, and that he had come from Darford to look for a job in pruning trees and vines. Richard Kemp, one of the warders at Wandsworth, said the prisoner was one of the oldest burglars in England. Many years ago he was cast for death, and that sentence was commuted to transportation for life. He received a ticket of leave, and had since been twice transported for life, and liberated with licence. At the September Sessions of the Central Criminal Court in 1866 witness was present when he was tried for burglary and sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour. He believed that he had since been convicted in the country. Mr. Burcham sentenced him to three months' hard labour for being in a closed premises for an unlawful purpose.

A RIGHT SORT OF POLICEMAN.—A heroic sergeant of police, Mason by name, obtained honourable mention from Mr. Vaughan, at Bow-street, on Tuesday. Mason was riding along a country road at Hillingdon one night, when he came upon two ruffians driving a cart full of what he had good reason to believe was stolen property. He was unarmed, but he dashed at them, only to find himself confronted by two more ruffians, who had been concealed among the goods. These he held, and, after a terrible struggle, lashed fast to the cart, the first two escaping. By this gallant act he saved—with an exception of no moment—the whole of a vast quantity of plate and valuable furniture which the four thieves had just stolen from a house in the neighbourhood. He was highly complimented on Tuesday by Mr. Vaughan, and presented with £5 from the Police Reward Fund. The Recorder had previously ordered him to receive £6; the inhabitants of the district in which his feat was performed have not shown themselves unmindful of his services; and he has been promoted by the First Commissioner. So that for once, everybody has reason to be satisfied—the thieves, perhaps, excepted.

THE JEWS AND THE FACTORY ACTS.—Employers who are of the Jewish persuasion are placed in a somewhat awkward predicament by the new factory law. On Monday no fewer than seven cigar manufacturers were brought before Mr. Benson, at the Thames Police Court, accused of having employed females and young persons on Sunday morning. From the statements of several of the defendants, it would appear to be the custom of such of the cigar manufacturers as are Jews to employ their workpeople for a few hours on Sunday mornings instead of Saturday, the latter day being strictly observed as their Sabbath. By the new Factory Act all work on Sunday is made illegal, and the Jews are not excepted. It is true that manufacturers of this persuasion are allowed to employ women and young persons on Saturday evenings from four till nine, but in summer this exception will be valueless, as the Sabbath in that season does not end till after nine in the evening. One of the gentlemen who appeared before Mr. Benson on Monday stated that the effect of the enforcement of this portion of the Factory Act would be still further to impoverish the poor Jewish families depending upon the wages earned by the women and young persons.

UNWHOLESOME SAUSAGES.—At Worship-street, on Monday, George Simmonds, a sausage manufacturer, of 6, Lambert's-terrace, Russia-lane, Bethnal-green, attended before Mr. Newton in answer to a summons which charged him with leaving on his premises, for the purpose of preparing for sausages, nine pieces of diseased beef, unfit for human food. Mr. Voss, the vestry clerk of the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal-green, appeared to prosecute; Mr. B. J. Abbott, solicitor, was for the defendant. Mr. John William Burrows, the inspector for the parish of St. Matthew, stated that he went to the premises of the defendant about ten o'clock on the morning of Thursday, Jan. 12, and there found two men engaged in cutting up two quarters of diseased cow beef. A few minutes afterwards the defendant came in, and on witness telling him that he should seize the meat as diseased, he said "It's a bad job." The meat was greased over with white fat, and at the time when witness entered it was in process of being prepared for the purpose of sausage manufacture. The defendant said he had received it from a butcher near Newgate-market, who had given it to him by mistake. Dr. Sarvis, the medical officer of health for Hackney, stated that he had examined the meat in question, which was so utterly unfit for human food that, if eaten, it would have engendered disease. On the part of the defendant, Mr. Abbott called George Reeves, an assistant who said that in the morning in question he was instructed by the defendant to go to the market to purchase some beef, and, after having purchased four quarters of beef and some pork, the meat was put into the cart by the porter. It was then taken to Russia-lane, and, before defendant saw it, was seized as bad by the sanitary inspector. Mr. Wilson said the case for the prosecution had been made out, and sentenced the defendant to pay a fine of £50 and costs (£3 16s.) or go to prison for three months. The amounts were immediately paid—Charles Simmonds, brother of the last defendant, also a sausage-maker, living at 19, Ann's-lane, Bethnal-green, was then charged with a

similar offence. Mr. Burrows stated that after leaving the last defendant's he went to the premises of a man named Cousins, in Wharf-road, Bethnal-green, where he found the defendant engaged in cutting up a quarter of diseased cow beef. The inspector called attention to its state, and the defendant replied that he did not know it was bad. He had purchased it of a butcher near Newgate-market, and he had given 14d. a stone for it—a rate at which no good meat could be purchased. The defendant added that the meat had passed the City inspectors, and that consequently he thought it was wholesome. Mr. Burrows removed the meat and brought it to this court, where it was condemned by the magistrate, Dr. Sarvis said he had seen the meat in question. It was diseased, and its use as human food would be attended with the most injurious consequences. Mr. Ellison said these cases were so serious as to call for the infliction of heavy punishment. Without giving him the option of a fine, he sentenced the defendant to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

AN ALLEGED SHAM CHARITY.—At Bow-street, on Monday, an application was made to Mr. Vaughan, the sitting magistrate, by Mr. E. Rimmel, the honorary secretary of the French Hospital, 40A, Lisle-street, Leicester-square, in reference to an imposture carried on by a person representing himself as secretary to a so-called "French Hospital" which had no existence. Mr. Rimmel is the well-known perfumer in the Strand. The hospital of which he is honorary secretary is known to be a well-conducted and useful institution, and its benefits to the deserving poor among foreigners in London have lately been matter of commendation in several of the public journals. A person calling himself Edward Smith, but supposed to be a foreigner, is now sending out to various tradesmen, in London and in Paris, circulars with the following heading printed at the top:—"French Hospital, founded A.D. 1868, under the special patronage of the Princes of Orleans, 24, Graham-street, City-road; Edward Smith, Secretary." These circulars contained a request that prices current of goods required as supplies for the hospital might be forwarded, and, no doubt, it was intended to give orders, which some tradesmen might comply with, if they should confound the fictitious French hospital with the real establishment. The Princes of Orleans, it had been ascertained, had no knowledge of Smith or his pretended hospital. No. 24, Graham-street was a one-storied house, in which Smith had occupied one small room for the last two or three weeks. There was not a sign or vestige of an hospital there. It was merely a place where he called occasionally to receive or write letters. Mr. Vaughan did not see that any actual offence of which he could take cognizance had been committed; but the best means of putting people on their guard, and also of giving effect to Mr. Rimmel's repudiation of the fictitious institution, would be that the press should give publicity to his statement. He trusted that would be done, for he felt bound to say that the real French Hospital was a well-conducted institution, and did much good among indigent and deserving foreigners.

MYSTERIOUS CASE OF SHOOTING.—Last Saturday afternoon a man named John Little, residing at Oulton, near Wigan, Cumberland, was brought before the magistrates at Carlisle, on remand, charged with wilfully and maliciously shooting at John Ward, farmer, Great Orton, on Saturday night, Jan. 30, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. The affair was surrounded with considerable mystery. Ward was on his way home from Carlisle market, and when a short distance beyond Raffles tollbar, rather over a mile from Carlisle, he was shot in the breast while walking along the road. Turning rapidly round, another shot was fired at him, the contents of the second barrel being lodged in his right shoulder. It was dark, and he could not recognise the man who fired. The wounded man was removed to the Cumberland Infirmary, and is not yet out of danger. No motive could be discovered for the crime, no robbery had been attempted, and Ward had not unwittingly given offence to anyone. In the course of a few days, however, the police apprehended the prisoner, John Little, and on Saturday evidence was given to connect him with the affair. Mary Tomlinson, Broomhills, identified the prisoner as a man whom she had seen on the road at Broomhills about two o'clock in the afternoon of Jan. 30 as she was coming to Carlisle. She did not observe that he had a gun with him then. She also met him near Bunker's-hill, between five and six o'clock the same day, walking in the direction of Raffles, and carrying a gun. When she saw the prisoner at the police station she recognised him as the man she had seen. It was her belief he was the same man. She would not like to swear the prisoner was the same man, but was almost sure he was. The muffled and waterproof produced by the police she identified as similar to those worn by the man she met. A joiner's apprentice, named Joseph Bell, who had seen the prisoner before and knew him by name, deposed that while he was on his way home from Carlisle with his mother and sister he met him on the road past Red House. He was carrying a double-barrelled gun, and spoke to him, saying it was a "blow night." Both nipples of the gun were capped, and the prisoner was walking in the direction of Raffles. He wore a waterproof coat and a muffer. The mother of the last witness, Elizabeth Bell, identified the prisoner in a similar way; but added that before passing the prisoner she met another man with a gun—a fair-haired, nice-looking man. Mary Clark, lodge-keeper at Orton Park, said that about eight o'clock on the night in question a man wearing a mackintosh and muffer called at the lodge and asked for a drink of water. He told her a man had been shot at Raffles, and was not likely to get better. She could not identify the man. Superintendent Taylor deposed to the apprehension of the prisoner, who told him he had been in Carlisle all day on Jan. 30, and would leave about six o'clock. He denied ever having had a mackintosh coat. Witness found the prisoner's gun, shot-bag, and powder-pouch at the Blue Bell Inn, Wigan. The shot in the bag were of the same size (No. 5) as one he had seen Mr. Brown, surgeon, extract from the wounded man's back at Raffles. Police Constable Bewley deposed that on the day after Ward was shot he found near the place a piece of

paper which had formed a portion of one of Carr's biscuit bags. It had been used as a wadding for a gun, and was stained with powder. In the prisoner's pocket he found what appeared to be part of the same bag. The pieces fit into one another. In the prisoner's coat he found the muffer produced, and at his father's house the glazed mackintosh. At the lockup the prisoner said he had never heard of the man having been shot until the following Monday. The prisoner made no defence, except saying, "I am not guilty of the crime." He was committed for trial at the assizes.

DARING OUTRAGE AT CAMBERWELL.—Last Saturday night, between twelve and one o'clock, as Mr. James Smith, a furniture-dealer, living at 2, Lifford-street, Camberwell, was returning home, he was attacked by three men, who knocked him down and then kicked him. The occurrence took place near the dead-wall of a house at a corner of Lifford-street. Mr. Smith had at the time money, the proceeds of a furniture sale, in his pocket, and the men, while he was upon the ground, tore his trousers down the side for the purpose of getting at his pocket. Their violence was so great that they rendered him insensible. They beat him about the head, and they kicked him on the stomach while he lay upon the ground. The sound of footsteps alarmed the men as they were attempting to take his money, and they ran away. Mr. Smith was afterwards taken to his house. The flesh on the right side of his face was torn open. On Sunday the police were communicated with, and they are endeavouring to arrest the men. Three small iron bars have been found on the ground where Mr. Smith was attacked. Near the iron bars there was a pool of blood.

IRISH CONVICTS.—The Directors of Convict Prisons in Ireland report that in the year 1867 296 convicts were sentenced to penal servitude in Ireland, 216 males and 80 females, and at the end of the year there were 1340 convicts in custody in Ireland, 920 males and 420 females; 330 convicts were discharged in the year, 123 unconditionally on completion of sentence, commutation, or pardon, and 207 on orders of license. In England among an equal number of convicts disposed of in 1866, the number discharged on termination of sentence was only 40 (instead of 112 as in Ireland in 1867), and on ticket of leave 320. Convicts in Ireland are sent first to Mountjoy Prison, and at the expiration of their probationary time are either transferred to the associated trades' division, or removed to association on the public works at Spike Island, whence in due time they pass on to Smithfield or Lusk intermediate prisons—the one with its trades and the other with its farm work. The Roman Catholic chaplain of Mountjoy submits that a period of eight months too long to keep a prisoner in separate confinement, locked in his cell about twenty-one hours a day, with work which is little better than absolute idleness, the man being generally without mental culture and of strong animal passions and vicious habits. This gentleman is of opinion that after three or four months the tendency is to enfeeble the mind and render the prisoner less able to resist temptation hereafter, thus, perhaps, partly causing the increase in the proportion of returned convicts, while crime and convictions generally have been so greatly diminishing. The directors do not concur in this view, but adhere to the general opinion that lengthened separation is a necessary part of the reformatory treatment of prisoners. The year's expenditure at Mountjoy was considerably increased by the detention therein of untold political prisoners—at one time more than 200. In the course of the year 227 of these were discharged, nearly all on conditions. Deducting the receipts for work done by the convicts, and the value of their labour on public works, the net annual charge per convict was reduced to £163s. 7d. The directors state that the system of Irish convict management continues to work in a satisfactory manner. Only twenty licenses were revoked in the year. Every effort is made to exercise the most complete supervision over the conduct of those who are released on ticket of license, the Royal Irish constabulary taking this duty in the country, while in Dublin it is done by Mr. Organ, inspector of released convicts. This gentleman states that the intermediate prisons very seldom indeed have cause to complain of their industry or conduct. As lecturer at the little agricultural colony of Lusk, he says that the great majority of the men have, by their conduct beyond the prison walls, won back the character they had forfeited by their crimes, and have become absorbed among the honest industrial classes of society. As lecturer at Smithfield, he states that his great object is to teach men to think, and to cultivate among them a manly spirit; and he says that his confidence that they may become honest members of society is justified by the growing confidence of employers in his men and the increasing demand for their labour. He writes under date Jan. 1, 1867 (a mistake for 1868) this result of his labours—"I can say, after a period of thirteen years' practical and by no means unimportant experience, that the prejudices of the public against the convict are every day diminishing; and it is a source of gratifying pride to me to say that no well-disposed released prisoner, no matter what gaol or county he hails from, can plead want of honest employment as an excuse for the pursuit of a life of crime."

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 12.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—S. RUSSELL, Mining-lane, lighterman.—E. J. TURNER, New-croft and Coleman-street, accountant.

BANKRUPTS.—J. ATKINS, Kingland-road; Bow-street, Coventry; and White Hart-street, Drury-lane, green grocer. J. CHANDLER, Nottingham; and J. H. CHITTY, Aston-butt, J. COULSON, Canterbury, confectioner.—W. CRIP, Alabouche, baker.—L. DE NORMANVILLE, Brighton, milliner.—C. FREDAM, Walworth, baker.—W. GILL, Percy-street, Tottenham-court-road.—T. B. HAMBELTON, Peniar, baker.—A. HOBBS, Wimbeldon, dairyman.—S. H. HUIST, Albany-street, plumber.—H. KING, Kirkbeck-road, Hornsey-rd, and Metropolitan Meat Market, meat salesman.—S. A. MACK, Fish-street-chill.—J. MARSH, Kensington, painter and decorator.—E. W. MATTHEWS, Haywards-street, enquirer.—T. E. NOBLE, Marylebone-road, milliner.—J. PALLANT, Highbury, builder.—E. REED, Bethnal-green, licensed victualler.—B. RYNDOLLS, Chiswick, builder.—W. F. RUSSELL, Holloway, cattle salesman.—W. SALZMANN, Hackney, dairyman.—J. B. SIMMONDS, Haggerstone, bootmaker.—E. W. SMALL, Stanhope-street, Hampstead-road, commercial clerk.—G. SMITH, Church Cobham, smith.—A. STEVENSON, Woolwich, brewer.—C. F. STRECKING, Upton-street, Middlesex Hospital, journeyman bootmaker.—G. TAILIN, Great Macclesfield, farmer.—W. WELCH, Norton-place, Brynston-quays, baker.—J. WHITLOCK, Devonshire-street, South Portland-place, cabdriver.—W. WATSON, Nottingham-place, Marylebone-road, professor of music.—W. P. WILLIAMS, Yarnmouth, cigar manufacturer.—W. WILCOCK, Hackney, baker.—A. ATKINSON, Birmingham, bootmaker's fore-

man.—J. J. ATWOOD, Elham, licensed victualler.—J. ATTWELL, Bishopston, licensed victualler.—J. BAILEY, Birmingham, coal-drawer.—R. BARNES, Northampton, writing clerk.—J. BARNON, Mexborough, glassblower.—G. BARNARD, Walsley, farmer.—T. BARRON, Mexborough, glassblower.—G. BARNARD, The Cape, near Birmingham, ironmaster.—R. J. BEACROFT, Brighton, dentist and chemist.—L. BECHER, Weymouth, iron, edge-tool maker.—J. BODLEY, Torquay, baker.—T. BODDEN, Newport, carpenter and builder.—G. CALDWELL, Wigan, provision-shop keeper.—P. CATERALL, Tyldesley, labourer.—F. CLUETT, Birmingham.—H. COATES, Marks, bookseller.—C. COLEMAN, South-street.—M. A. COOPERSON, Elford, brewer.—W. G. CULLEN, Dursley, brewer.—J. M. DAVIES, Nettingham, wine merchant.—C. DAVES, Newhall, brewers' clerk.—R. DEACON, Frome Salway, carpenter and builder.—H. EDMONDSON, Manchester, dyestaller.—H. EDWARDS, Worth, estate and commission agent.—J. EVANS, Southsea, florist.—W. L. EVANS, Cardiff, chemist and druggist.—W. C. EVANS, Torquay, dealer in fancy goods.—H. FINCH, Leicester, clerk.—J. FOSTER, Whalley, licensed victualler.—H. GREEN, Hipping Norton, upholsterer.—M. HILL, Lomister, coachbuilder.—J. HATFIELD, Little Bolton, iron-moulder.—J. HATFIELD, Donfield, grocer and spirit-dealer.—R. HAYWARD, Southsea, grocer.—T. HINTON, Wolverhampton, licensed victualler.—W. E. HOBBOUGH, Boston, contractor for public works.—W. J. HOBSON, Manchester, furniture-maker.—T. H. JETON, West Haddon, baker.—M. W. JEFFREY, Tramore, J. JONES, Brynmawr.—L. KETLEY, Wolverhampton, railway porter.—J. KNOWLES, Horton, boot and shoe maker.—W. KILPATRICK, Birmingham, carver and wood-glass manufacturer.—J. L. LLOYD, Cardiff, ironmaster.—D. LLOYD, Terherlet, carpenter and builder.—A. MACHIN, Ripley, brewer.—M. W. LOYE and E. W. TOLCHARD, Emsington, grocers and confectioners.—J. M. MACKIN, Southsea, railway porter.—W. MITCHELL, Bolton, chemist, china, glass, and mineral dealer.—E. MORRIS, Newbold, grocer and confectioner.—G. MOYLE, Gwamp, bran merchant.—E. OAKDEN, Sutton, painter, plumber, and glazier.—J. OAKLEY, Leicester, tinsmith.—J. O'NEIL, Bristol, miller.—J. PETER, Birmingham, coal merchant.—J. PLANT, Stone, provision-vender.—J. PLANT, Stone, innkeeper and brewer.—J. QUARM, Kingsbridge.—R. RADLYFFE, jun., Hartbury, boiler-maker.—J. F. RYNDOLLS, Swinnow, wool-buyer.—G. RHODES, Southampton, joiner and builder.—A. R. KETT, Birmingham, commercial traveller.—G. ROBINSON, Birmingham, dressing-case maker.—F. ROGERS, Monks Kirby, miller.—T. ROTHWELL, Dixley, manager.—J. SCHOFIELD, 5, Fiske, baker.—J. SMITH, Birkenhead, hatter.—J. T. SMITH, Barton-on-Trent, grocer.—J. SOKS, Bury St. Edmunds, cooper.—C. TAYLOR, New Radford, labourer.—W. TYLER, Wolverhampton and Tinsell, boot and shoe manufacturer.—W. H. WALL, Worcester, publisher.—J. L. WARD, jun., Stratford-on-Avon.—A. C. WALKIN, Loughborough, scholastic agent.—J. L. WEST, Hartwood, builder.—W. WHITE, Puxhill, cattle-dealer.—T. WHEATLEY, East Retford, tailor.—W. R. WILLIAMS, Hendy, grocer and draper.—J. M. WILSON, jun., W. LLOYD, Manchester, merchants.—G. WOOD, Hunt-pierpoint, butcher.—J. J. WINNE, Torquay, Lieutenant in the Royal Marine Light Infantry.—H. BARKON, Mexborough, bookkeeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—E. HARRISON, Borrowstownness, grocer.—W. MACK, Glasgow, builder.—J. WALKER, Kilmory, manufacturer of malleable iron.—G. BENSHEW, Glasgow, merchant.—R. NELSON, Falkirk, cabinet-maker, and Camelon, near Falkirk, publisher.—J. C. M. NAUGHT, Glasgow, wine merchant.—J. L. MACRAE, Loch Carron, Ross-shire, draper.—T. PATRICK, Glasgow, wine and spirit merchant.—G. M. CARNEY, Cumnock, millwright.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—A. F. C. OX, Axminster.

BANKRUPTS.—J. BEECROFT, Fulford, insurance agent. J. M. JEFFREY, Woolwich, tobacconist.—R. B. BAXING, Kensington, painter.—J. WALLER, Leicester-square, licensed victualler.—T. P. BRETHER, jun., Milton, master mason.—E. W. SOUTHEY, Stoke Newington, wharfinger.—T. SMITH, Finsbury, omnibus-driver.—E. SARGROVE, Islington, plumber.—G. and W. HODGES, Worthing, engineers.—J. N. BLYTHE, Chelsea, tailor.—S. BROWN, Blackfriars-road, perfumer.—G. A. CULLEN, Kingston-on-Thames, servant.—G. H. WHITEFIELD, New Oxford-street, commission agent.—G. SLATER and S. SALISBURY, Finsbury, engineers.—E. BAILY, Sevenoaks, butcher.—F. HAMMOND, Clipplegate, tin and zinc worker.—J. E. GILFING, Southwark, collector.—W. STICKOCK, Clarks-street, wine and beer seller.—G. CHAMBERS, Clapham-road, wine merchant.—J. A. CURRAN, Camberwell New-road.—E. and E. OLLIVEY, New North-road, tobacconists.—E. G. GERRARD, City-road, clerk.—A. H. WELSH, Albury-road, Ca. obury, clerk.—H. FREER, Islington, coachbuilder.—D. DURLIN, Mile-End New Town, packing-case maker.—M. R. GOODRICH, Gosport, licensed victualler.—R. LANGRICH, St. John's-wood, butcher.—H. B. BUTLER, Commercial-road, work in boot orders.—G. T. REEVE, Deptford, second-hand clerk.—I. BERRIDGE, Bicester, solicitor.—G. BROMLEY, Palmerston-road, messenger.—C. S. DIBBS, Bournemouth, licensed victualler.—C. J. CRISWELL, King's Norton.—T. W. J., and E. F. RD, Southfield Heath, nut manufacturers.—J. PITT, Birmingham, G. GRIFFIN, Worcester, confectioner.—T. FORD, jun., Westmead Heath, coal-dealer.—W. CLARKE, Eastwood, builder.—W. H. LEVERSON, Gloucester, tailor.—W. DOWNS, Torquay, builder.—J. DOWIE, Barnard, barmaid's-room.—J. F. FINEY, Banquet, glenket and flannel manufacturer.—D. B. LOSS, Bury, cattle-dealer.—T. M. MASTERMAN, Middleham, grocer.—W. TURNER, Kingston-on-Hull, basket-maker.—J. L. LLOYD, jun., Great Grivity, ship-chandler.—J. M. LLOYD, Liverpool, warehouse-keeper.—C. KEARNS, Everton.—B. LEE, York, grocer.—J. A. CARPENTER, Tardiff, carpenter.—W. HILL, Cadishead, surgeon.—J. H. GOODRICH, Newport, ironmonger, attorney-at-law.—J. S. GIFFORD, Watlington, schoolmaster.—W. RICHARDS, Tivy-street, clock-maker.—H. HODD, Liverpool, ironmaster.—T. DAVIS, Liverpool, boot and shoe maker.—J. GOVANS, Mowth, cartwright.—L. BUNDLEY, Milton, miner.—E. HILL, Bolton, auctioneer.—W. LILS, Bury, toy-maker.—H. B. DAVIS, Dudley, watchmaker.—H. BRADG, Sandford, blacksmith.—J. H. L. CROFT, Alsage, farmer.—W. THOMAS, Llanberis, carpenter.—E. SHELLEY, Brighton, whitesmith.—W. SMITH, jun., Olney, innkeeper.—J. MOOD, Leek, butcher.—J. A. TINGTON, South Moorpark, sap-maker.—W. SMITH, Birmingham.—W. A. CLARK, Torquay.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—F. CROAN, Edinburgh, fish salesman.—K. MINTYRE and A. ROBERTSON, Glasgow, general auctioneers.—J. A. DUNN, Annan, writer.—W. WILKIE, Tayport, farmer.—W. HAMILTON, Larkhall, builder.—FRANK and GAULD, Keith, builders.

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